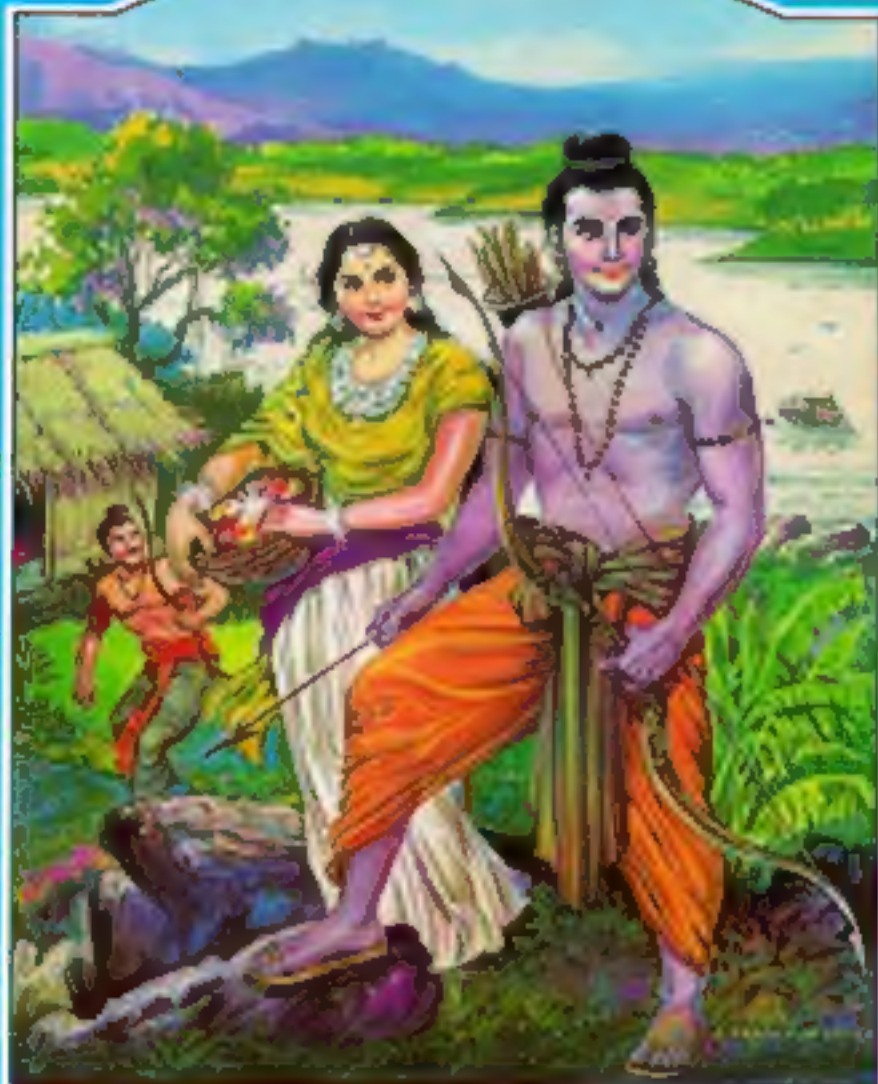




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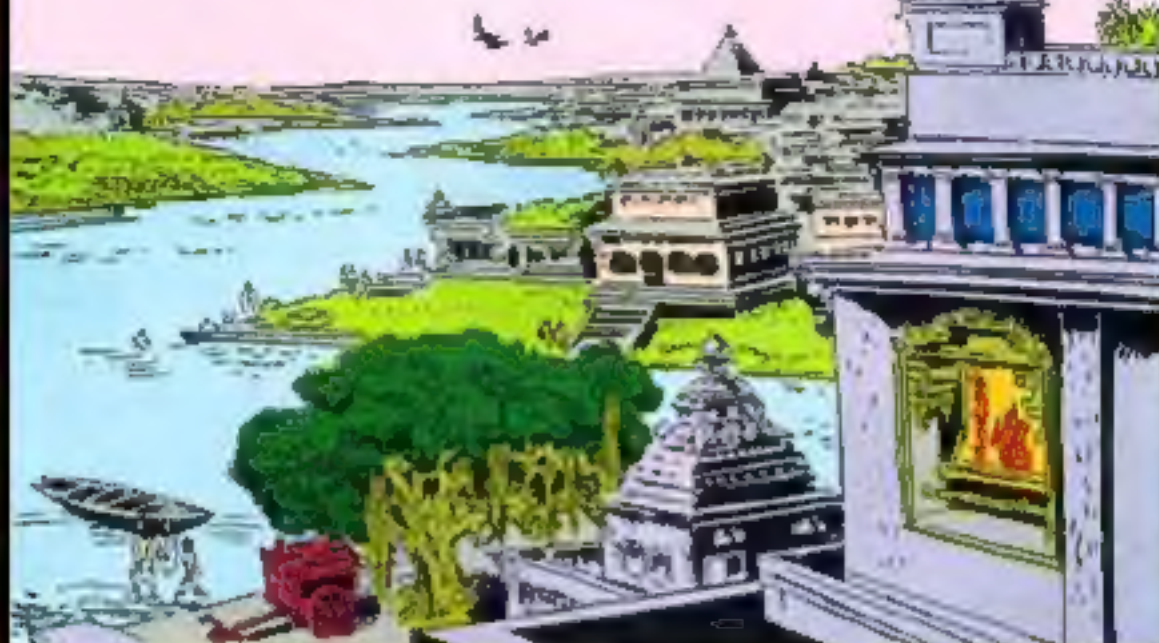
VALMIKI'S RAMAYANA



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India.



THE RAMAYANA



KOSALA WAS A PROSPEROUS KINGDOM IN ANCIENT INDIA RULED BY KING DASHARATHA. IT WAS SITUATED ON THE BANK OF THE SARAYU AND ITS CAPITAL WAS AYODHYA.

DASHARATHA HAD THREE QUEENS, BUT NONE OF THEM HAD BORNE HIM A SON. SO THE KING DECIDED TO PERFORM A **YAGNA**.



* A SWEET DISH MADE OF MILK AND RICE

FROM THE BLAZING FIRE THERE EMERGED A DIVINE FORM.

TAKE THIS **PAYASA*** PREPARED BY THE GODS AND LET YOUR WIVES PARTAKE OF IT. THEN THEY WILL BEAR SONS.



THE DIVINE FORM DISAPPEARED.

THE KING TOOK THE PRECIOUS GIFT FIRST TO KAUSALYA, HIS ELDEST QUEEN.

KAUSALYA, PLEASE
HAVE HALF OF
THIS. YOU WILL
HAVE A
SON.

HE SHARED THE REMAINING BETWEEN HIS OTHER TWO WIVES, SUMITRA AND KAIKEYI. IN DUE COURSE, FOUR SONS WERE BORN. KAUSALYA'S SON WAS NAMED RAMA AND KAIKEYI'S SON WAS NAMED BHARATA. SUMITRA HAD TWINS, LAKSHMANA AND BHATRUGHNA.

THE PRINCES LEARNT THE VEDAS.



THEY LEARNT HOW TO RIDE HORSES AND ELEPHANTS.



BEFORE THEY WERE
SIXTEEN, THEY HAD
MASTERED THE USE
OF WEAPONS.

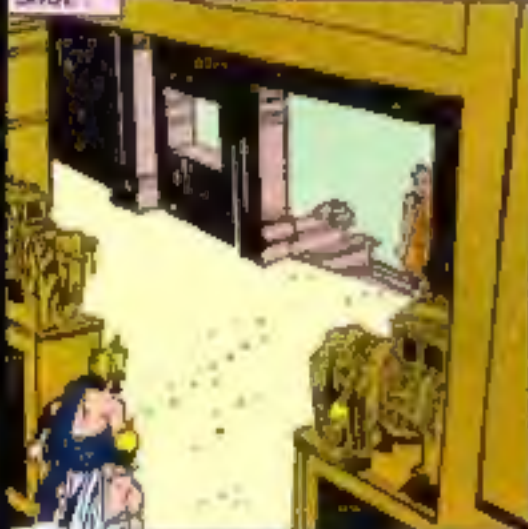


ONE DAY, AS KASHARATHA SAT AT COURT WITH HIS MINISTERS, A ROYAL GUARD ENTERED THE HALL.



YOUR MAJESTY! SAGE VISHNAMITRA HAS COME TO SEE YOU.

THE KING HURRIED OUT TO RECEIVE THE SAGE.



AFTER THE SAGE HAD COME IN AND ACCEPTED A SEAT, THE KING ADDRESSED HIM —



HOLY ONE! TELL ME THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU DESIRE? I'LL CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS WITHOUT QUESTION.



THE RAKSHASAS* OBSTRUCT MY FIRE SACRIFICES. AS EACH SACRIFICE NEARS COMPLETION, THEY DEFILE THE ALTAR.



SEND YOUR VALIANT SON, RAHA, WITH ME TO DESTROY THEM.

OH, NO!

DASHARATHA WAS SHOCKED BY THE WORDS OF THE SAGE AND, LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS, HE FELL DOWN.



WHICH HE RECOVERED —

RAMA IS NOT YET SIXTEEN. HE HAS NO EXPERIENCE OF WAR. HOW CAN HE FIGHT THE MIGHTY RAKSHASAS?



TAKE MY ARMY, IF YOU WISH, I'LL COME MYSELF TO FIGHT THE RAKSHASAS. BUT SPARE MY DARLING SON, RAMA.



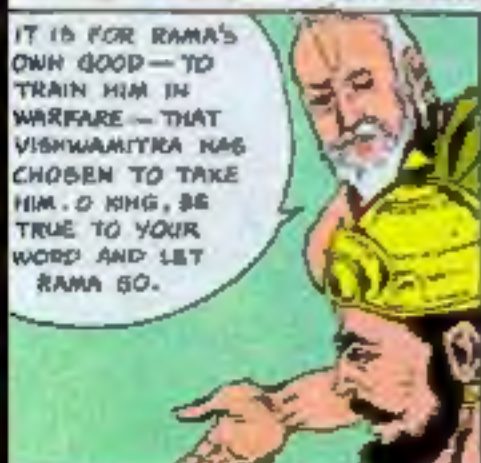
IT HAS TO BE RAMA — AND NO ONE ELSE.



O KING, YOU HAVE GONE BACK ON YOUR WORD. THIS ILL BEFITS THE NOBLE TRADITION OF YOUR FAMILY. I TAKE MY LEAVE OF YOU, O UNTRUTHFUL KING!



THEN VASISHTHA, THE ROYAL
PRECEPTOR, INTERVENED.



THE THREE LEFT AYODHYA, CROSSED THE CONFLUENCE OF THE SARAYU AND THE GANGA, AND PROCEEDED FURTHER.

O RAMA, ONCE THIS PLACE WAS ALIVE WITH PEOPLE. THE WICKED RAKSHASI*, TATARA, HAS DEVASTATED IT. SAVE THIS LAND BY DESTROYING HER.

AS YOU COMMAND, SIR.

AS RAMA LIFTED HIS BOW, THE SOUND OF ITS STRING ECHOED THROUGH THE FOREST. TATARA HEARD THE SOUND.

TWANG

A TRESPASSER! I'LL DEVOUR HIM.

RUNNING TOWARDS HIM, SHE THREW A SHOWER OF ROCKS WHICH RAMA PARRIED WITH EASE.

SHE MADE HERSELF INVISIBLE AND CONTINUED TO SHOWER HEAVY ROCKS ON THEM.

SLAY HER!

BUT WHERE IS SHE?

THERE!

RAMA SENT A SHOWER OF ARROWS
IN HER DIRECTION.



BUT TATAKA CONTINUED
TO ADVANCE
MENACEFULLY.



THEN RAMA'S ARROW PERCED HER
HEART...



...AND SHE FELL DEAD.

ISHWAMITRA WAS FLEALED WITH
RAMA'S VALOUR, SO HE PROCEEDED
TO REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THE
DIVINE WEAPONS TO HIM.



THEY RESUMED THEIR JOURNEY AND SOON ARRIVED AT THE
GANGA'S HERMITAGE. THE ASCETICS RECEIVED THEM.



RAMA AND LAKSHMANA KEPT WORK AS THE SACRIFICE PROGRESSED. ON THE SIXTH DAY—



LOOK, LAKSHMANA! THE RAKSHASAS!



JUST AS THE WIND SCATTERS THE CLOUDS SO SHALL WE DESTROY THEM!

RAMA'S ARROW FOUND ITS MARK. THE RAKSHASA, MARICHA, WAS HIT WITH SUCH FORCE...



...THAT HE WAS FLUNG INTO THE SEA, A HUNDRED MILES AWAY.



SUBAHU AND THE OTHER RAKSHASAS WERE ALSO VANQUISHED BY RAMA AND LAKSHMANA. MEANWHILE THE FIRE SACRIFICE WAS COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY.

I'VE ACCOMPLISHED MY MISSION BECAUSE YOU CARRIED OUT MY WISHES. O RAMA, YOU'VE MADE MY SIDDHA-ASHRAM WORTHY OF ITS NAME.



I ONLY DID MY DUTY, HOLY ONE.

• THE HERMITAGE WHERE THE TASKS UNDERTAKEN ARE SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED

THEN THE SAGES WHO HAD ATTENDED VISHNAMITRA'S SACRIFICE SPOKE TO RAMA.

PRINCE, WE ARE GOING TO MITHILA TO ATTEND THE YAGNA TO BE PERFORMED BY KING JANAKA. WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH US?

GLADLY!

SO RAMA AND LAKSHMANA SET OFF WITH VISHNAMITRA AND THE OTHER SAGES. ON THE WAY THE SAGES TOLD RAMA ABOUT SHIVA'S FAMOUS BOW WHICH WAS NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF JANAKA.

COULD WE SEE SHIVA'S BOW WHEN WE ARRIVE AT MITHILA?

YOU COULD, IF KING JANAKA GIVES HIS PERMISSION.

AT MITHILA, WHEN KING JANAKA CALLED ON VISHNAMITRA AND THE OTHER SAGES TO PAY HIS RESPECTS AND TO INVITE THEM TO THE SACRIFICE, HE NOTICED RAMA AND HIS BROTHER.

HOLY ONE, WHO ARE THESE TWO PRINCES WHO SHINE LIKE THE SUN AND THE MOON?

THEY ARE THE SONS OF RASHARATHA.

THE NEXT DAY, VISHNAMITRA AND THE PRINCES CALLED ON JANAKA AT THE SACRIFICIAL SITE.

O KING, THE PRINCES ARE EAGER TO SEE THE GREAT BOW.

MANY KINGS, O SAGE, HAVE TRIED IN VAIN TO STRING THE GREAT BOW OF SHIVA. IF RAMA SUCCEEDS IN THIS, HE SHALL MARRY MY DAUGHTER, SITA.

SITA WAS JANAKA'S ADOPTED DAUGHTER. WHILE PLOUGHING A SACRIFICIAL SITE HE HAD FOUND HER IN ONE OF THE FURROWS.

SOON, AT JAHNNA'S COMMAND FIVE MIGHTY
STRONG MEN BROUGHT FROM THE CITY THE LIGHT
WHEELED BOX IN WHICH THE GREAT BOW WAS KEPT

O SAGE, HERE IS THE
GREAT BOW OF DIBYA.
THE PRINCES MAY
FINDING IT

RAMA OPENED THE BOX AND LIFTED UP
THE BOW EFFORTLESSLY

EVEN AS HE STRUNG IT

THE BOW BROKE INTO TWO WITH A THUNDEROUS SOUND THAT SHOOK THE EARTH



WHEN HE HAD RECOVERED FROM THE SHOCK JANAKA TURNED TO VISHNUPRITHA



AM INDEED FORTUNATE TO HAVE WITNESSED SUCH A FEAT MY DAUGHTER SHALL HAVE RAMA AS HER LORD, AND ENHANCE THE GLORY OF MY DYNASTY WITH YOUR PERMISSION I WILL CONVEY THE GLAD NEWS TO KING DASHARATHA.

IN DUE COURSE DASHARATHA ARRIVED IN MITHILA TO ATTEND THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY.



O RAMA, FROM THIS MOMENT, MY DAUGHTER, THE VIRTUOUS SITA, WILL BE YOUR COMPANION SHE WILL FOLLOW YOU LIKE A SHADOW. MAY YOU BOTH BE HAPPY!

LAKSHMANA MARRIED SITA'S
SISTER URMILA BHARATA
MARRIED MANDANA AND
SHATRUGHNA MARRIED
SHRUTAKIRTI, BOTH DAUGHTERS
OF JANAKA'S BROTHER KING
KUSHADHWAJA FLOWERS RAINED
DOWN FROM HEAVEN AS THEY
WENT ROUND THE SACRED FIRE.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, VISHNUPATRA
BLESSED THE PRINCES AND THEIR
BRIDES



AND LEFT FOR THE
HIMALAYAS TO MEDITATE

DASHARATHA SET OUT FOR HIS CAPITAL WITH HIS
SONS AND THEIR BRIDES ON THE WAY SAGE
MARASHURAMA A SWORN ENEMY OF THE WARRIOR
CLASS BARRED THE WAY

O RAMA HAVING HEARD
ABOUT YOUR HEROIC
ACHIEVEMENTS, I'VE COME
TO SEEK COMBAT WITH
YOU!



VISHNUPATRA TREMBLED ALL OVER

O HOLY ONE SPARE
MY SON WHO IS BUT
A CHILD, I IMPLORE
YOU!

IGNORING DASHARATHA'S PLEAS, MARASHURAMA
BROUGHT FORTH HIS BOW

HERE, TAKE THIS GREAT BOW OF
VISHNU IF YOU SUCCEED IN DRAWING
THIS BOW, I'LL CONSIDER YOU
WORTHY OF MY RESPECT!



RAMA THEN SEIZED THE BOW, AND PLACED AN ARROW IN IT, READY FOR USE

O, RAMA I AM NOW CONVINCED THAT YOU ARE NONE OTHER THAN VISHNU!

PARSHIRAMA RETURNED TO HIS ABODE IN MOUNT MAHENDRA AND GADHARATHA RESUMED HIS JOURNEY WITH HIS PARTY



AYODHYA GAVE A ROUING WELCOME TO THE PRINCES AND THEIR BRIDES



SOME TIME LATER BHARATA WENT TO HIS MATERNAL GRANDFATHER'S KINGDOM ON A VISIT

RAMA TOOK GOOD CARE OF HIS FATHER

HE IS AFFECTIONATE AND CONSIDERATE

TWELVE YEARS PASSED BY

I AM GETTING OLD RAMA IS LOVED BY ALL IT IS TIME TO NAME HIM MY SUCCESSOR.

DASHARATHA CALLED A MEETING OF HIS COUNCIL

HAVE RULED THIS GREAT
KINGDOM IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE TRADITIONS OF MY
ANCESTORS NOW I HAVE
BROUGHT OLD AND-

WITH YOUR
CONSENT, DESIRE
TO INSTALL MY
ELDEST SON, RAMA,
BEST AMONG MEN,
AS YUVARAJA.



WE
APPROVE!

RAMA IS THE
PERFECT
CHOICE!

YES IN FORBEARANCE
RAMA IS LIKE THE
EARTH, IN WISDOM
LIKE BRAHMAPATI, IN
VALOUR LIKE INDRA!

THEN DASHARATHA SENT FOR RAMA



MY SON ACCEPT THE
HIGH OFFICE OF YUVARAJA
RULE YOUR SUBJECTS
WITH DUE REGARD FOR
THEIR HAPPINESS.

THANK YOU,
FATHER.

CROWN PRINCE

KAKEYI, LAKSHMATHA'S THIRD WIFE
HEARD THE NEWS FROM MANTHARA,
HER MAID.

MY RAMA IS TO
BE CROWNED! AM
SO HAPPY! HERE TAKE
MY NECKLACE AS A
REWARD FOR BRINGING
THE GOOD NEWS!

BUT MANTHARA FLUNG THE NECKLACE AWAY

THIS IS NO
JOYOUS OCCASION!
RAMA WILL BE KING
AND SHARATA —
NOTHING!

BUT, MANTHARA,
RAMA IS AS
DEAR TO ME AS
SHARATA.

O FOOLISH QUEEN, CAN'T
YOU SEE WHY THEY HAVE
DECIDED TO CROWN
RAMA IN SHARATA'S
ABSENCE?

WHEN RAMA BECOMES KING HE WILL
EITHER BANISH SHARATA OR PUT
HIM TO DEATH!

NO, HE
WON'T
KNOW
MY RAMA!

BUT MANTHARA CONTINUED RELENTLESSLY—

KAUSHALA WILL BECOME
THE QUEEN-MOTHER
AND YOU'LL HAVE TO
BOW TO HER
WISHES

MANTHARA'S WORDS HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT.
FOR HAIKEYI WAS JEALOUS OF KINGSALYA.

FOR YOUR SON'S SAKE—
AND YOUR OWN—YOU
MUST THINK OF A WAY TO
GET RID OF RAMA.

PERHAPS YOU
ARE RIGHT.

PERSUADE THE
KING TO PLACE
BHARATA ON THE
THRONE INSTEAD!

BUT HOW?
WILL THE KING
LISTEN TO ME?

HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN THE
BOONS THE KING
BESTOWED ON
YOU?

YES! I COULD
USE THEM
NOW.

THE NEXT MORNING, THE NOBLES ASSEMBLED IN THE ROYAL
COURT TO WITNESS THE INVESTITURE OF RAMA AS CROWN PRINCE.

PREPARATIONS FOR
THE CEREMONY
ARE NOW COMPLETE.
BUT WHERE IS
THE KING?

I HOPE THERE IS
NOTHING WRONG.



WHEN SUMANTA REACHED RAMA'S PALACE —

PRINCE, THE KING WISHED TO SEE YOU. HE IS IN THE APARTMENTS OF QUEEN KAIKEY.



THEN RAMA TURNED TO SITA

SITA SMILED KAIKEY IN KIND AND CONSIDERATE SHE IS PROBABLY DISCUSSING THE DETAILS OF THE CEREMONY WITH MY FATHER. MUST HASTEN TO MEET THEM



RAMA DROVE OUT TO KAIKEY'S PALACE AMONG THE STREETS OF AYODHYA WHICH WERE Gaily DECORATED TO CELEBRATE HIS WEDDING. THE PEOPLE CHEERED HIM LUSTILY AS HE DROVE BY



WHEN RAMA ENTERED KAIKEYI'S PALACE —

MY FATHER SEEMS TO
BE IN GREAT DISTRESS.
WHY IS HE NOT HAPPY
TO SEE ME? WHY
IS HE FROWNING?



HIS TURNED TO KAIKEYI —

HAVE OFFENDED MY FATHER?
PLEASE PLEAD ON MY BEHALF.
O MOTHER, AND ASK HIM TO
FORGIVE ME.

O RAMA, IF
YOU ONLY KNEW
KAIKEYI'S TRUE
NATURE!



RAMA 1005 AGO YOUR FATHER
HAD PROMISED ME TWO BOONS.
HE IS SILENT AND RESENTFUL
BECAUSE THE FULFILLMENT OF
THOSE BOONS WILL CAUSE
YOU UNPLEASANTNESS.



I AM PREPARED TO THROW
MYSELF INTO FIRE IF MY
FATHER DESIRES IT PLEASE
LET ME KNOW THE BOONS
AND I PROMISE TO
FULFIL THEM.



O, RAMA, LONG
AGO I HAD ACCOMPANIED
THE KING WHEN HE
SET OUT TO FIGHT
THE ASURAS.

"HE FOUGHT BRAVELY AND KILLED MANY ASURAS."



IN THE COURSE OF THE BATTLE AN ARROW HIT HIM AND HE FELL
WOUNDED SENSING THE DANGER TO HIS LIFE I DROVE THE
CHARIOT THROUGH THE BESIEGING ARMY OF THE ASURAS



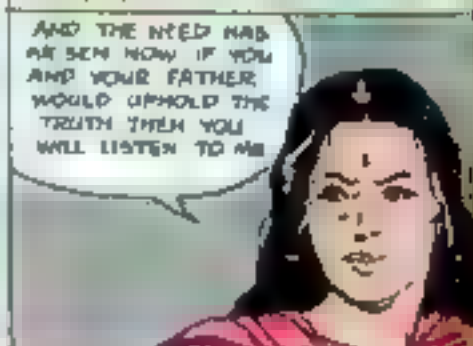
AND BROUGHT HIM BACK SAFELY TO THE CAPITAL
THEN -

KAIKEYI, OWED MY
LIFE TO YOU AND
FOR TWO
BOONS

LORD, I SHALL
CLAIM THEM WHEN
THE NEED ARISES.

KAIKEYI CONCLUDED HER STORY -

AND THE NEED HAD
ARISEN NOW IF YOU
AND YOUR FATHER
WOULD UPHOLD THE
TRUTH THEN YOU
WILL LISTEN TO ME



WANT BHARATA TO BE
MADE THE YUVARAJA AND
YOU, RAMA, EXILED TO
THE FOREST FOR
FOURTEEN YEARS.



AT THESE WORDS, DASHA
RATHA WAS AGAIN
OVERWHELMED WITH GRIEF

O, RAMA!



BUT RAMA BETRAYED
AND SIGN OF DISRESPECT



TO KEEP THE
PROMISE MADE BY THE
KING MY FATHER,
I SHALL LEAVE FOR
THE FOREST
IMMEDIATELY

MY RAMA

BUT WHY DOESN'T MY
FATHER TALK TO ME
AFFECTIONATELY & FEEL
DISTRESSED TO SEE
HIM SHEDDING
TEARS



IT IS BECAUSE HE CANNOT
BRING HIMSELF TO ASK YOU
TO GO TO THE FOREST BUT HE
WILL NEITHER BATHE NOR
PARTAKE OF FOOD UNTIL
YOU LEAVE



ON HEARING THE WORDS OF HANSEYI, DASHARATHA
GOT UP -

FIE UPON YOU,
O KAI

FATHER!



OVERCOME BY SORROW, HE FELL DOWN
UNCONSCIOUS

O, FATHER!

THEN RAMA TURNED TO RAJEEV

MOTHER, YOU COULD HAVE ASKED
ME TO GO TO THE FOREST
WITHOUT CLAIMING THE
PROMISED BOONS AND
CAUSING DISTRESS TO
MY FATHER. I WOULD
HAVE GLADLY
OBEYED YOU.

IN HIS WAY OUT, WHILE PASSING THROUGH THE
PALACE HALL, RAMA WALKED ROUND THE SACRED
ARTICLES ARRANGED FOR THE CORONATION AND
PRAYED.

MAY THESE BE DEDICATED
TO THE CORONATION OF
BHARATA. MAY THE
GODS PROTECT HIM!

BY THEN THE NOBLES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED IN THE PALACE HALL TO WITNESS THE
CORONATION HAD LEARNT OF RAJEEV'S DEMAND AND RAMA'S DECISION.

HE DOESN'T SEEM
TO BE SORRY TO GIVE
UP THE THRONE!

THERE HE
DOES LIKE
A VOGY!

RAMA CALLED ON KAUSALYA, HIS MOTHER, TO BID HER GOODBYE —



O CHILD, HOW CAN I BEAR THIS? TO HAVE A SON AND THEN TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIM IS WORSE THAN HAVING NO CHILD AT ALL!

WHEN LAKSHMANA SAW KAUSALYA IN TEARS, HE WAS OVERCOME WITH GRIEF



OUR FATHER HAS LOST HIS SENSES IN HIS OLD AGE OR HE WOULD NOT HAVE DEPRIVED SINLESS RAMA OF THE KINGDOM AND EXILED HIM!

HE TURNED TO RAMA



THE KINGS CANNOT CONFER THE KINGDOM ON BHARATA IGNORING YOUR RIGHTS AS HIS ELDEST SON.

THE WEEK ARE EVER OPPRESSED ASSERT YOURSELF IF ANY ONE DARES OPPOSE YOU, I WILL DEAL WITH HIM.



LAKSHMANA, IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, A MAN SHOULD STRIVE TO UPHOLD HIS DHARMA* GIVE UP THE BALANCE ON VIOLENCE, I WILL BE ACTING AGAINST MY DHARMA IF I PREVENT THE FULFILMENT OF MY FATHER'S PROMISES



IF YOU CANNOT CHANGE YOUR MIND, LET ME, TOO, GO WITH YOU INTO EXILE



* DIVINE LAW OBSERVANCE OF WHICH IS CONSIDERED A DUTY

MOTHER, THE KING IS ALREADY DEEPLY DISTRESSED HE WILL DIE IF YOU DESERT HIM YOUR PLACE IS BESIDE HIM. GIVE ME YOUR BLESSING AND LET ME GO



KAUSALYA REALISED THAT IT WAS FUTILE TO TRY AND STOP HIM SHE GAVE HER BLESSING AND THREW RICE OVER HIS HEAD.



WE THEN APPLIED SANDALWOOD PASTE ON HIS FOREHEAD

MAY THE GODS OF THE MOUNTAINS, SEAS, RIVERS, SPACE, DAY AND NIGHT AND THE STARS PROTECT YOU IN THE FOREST



THEN RAMA WENT TO SITA TO TAKE HIS LEAVE OF HER



SITA, THE FOREST IS FULL OF BEASTS. IT IS NO PLACE FOR A DELICATE LADY YOU ARE USED TO COMFORTS STAY HERE IN THE PALACE



MY LORD, IN YOUR COMPANY
THE FOREST WILL BE LIKE
HEAVEN AND WITHOUT YOU EVEN
THE PALACE WILL BE HELL TAKE
ME WITH YOU 'DON'T ABANDON
ME!

NOW THAT
I KNOW YOUR MIND,
SHALL TAKE YOU
WITH ME

THEN LAKSHMANA TURNED TO RAMA

WILL COME TOO,
RAMA WITHOUT
YOU I DECIDE
NOTHING NOT
EVEN IMMORTALITY
TAKE ME WITH
YOU!

VERY WELL, BROTHER
YOU SHALL BE A SOLACE
TO ME

RAMA GAVE AWAY HIS WEALTH.

AND SET OUT FOR DISHAMATHA'S PALACE ON FOOT THE PEOPLE WATCHED THEIR
BELIEVED PRINCE WITH TEARS IN THEIR EYES

FORMERLY ALL THE
FOUR DIVISIONS* OF
THE ARMY USED TO
ATTEND ON RAMA
TODAY HE IS ONLY
FOLLOWED BY SITA
AND LAKSHMANA

WHO WE DELODRATE
THE CAPITAL ONLY
TO SEND OUR
PRINCE TO THE
FOREST?

* INFANTRY CAVALRY CHARIOT RIDERS ELEPHANT RIDERS

RAMA IS VIRTUOUS,
COMPASSIONATE, LEARNED,
TRUTHFUL AND SELF-
CONTROLLED

HOW COULD
THE KING SEND
SO DEAR A
SON INTO
EXILE!

WE WILL
ABANDON OUR
HOMES AND
FOLLOW RAMA!

YES,
WE WILL!

WHEN RAMA'S ARRIVAL WAS ANNOUNCED, THE OLD
KING ROSE TO MEET HIM.

O, RAMA!

BUT THE NEXT MINUTE HE FELL DOWN,
SENSELESS.

RAMA RUSHED FORWARD, TOOK HIM IN
HIS ARMS

AND PERCED HIM GENTLY ON THE CROWN.

WHEN DASHARATHA REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS —

O RAMA, KAIKEYI HAS BETRAYED ME. DON'T GO TO THE FOREST. SET ME ASIDE, SEIZE THE KINGDOM AND RULE!

FATHER, MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY MORE YEARS OF PEACE IN YOUR KINGDOM. AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS, I WILL RETURN TO SERVE YOU.

PERMIT ME TO LEAVE NOW, FATHER, WITH SITA AND LAKSHMANA.

THEN TAKE MY WEALTH AND PEOPLE WITH YOU, RAMA. LET THE FOREST WHERE YOU DWELL BE THE KINGDOM!

OH, NO!

O KING! BHARATA WILL NOT ACCEPT A KINGDOM STRIPPED OF ITS WEALTH AND PEOPLE.

FATHER, WHAT NEED HAVE I OF WEALTH IN THE FOREST? THE TREES, CLOUDS, SPARKING STREAMS — THOSE ARE WEALTH ENOUGH.

I'LL LEAD THE LIFE
OF AN ASCETIC GIVE
ME ROBES OF BARK!



NO ONE MOVED

NO, RAMA!

HOW CAN WE DEAR
TO SEE OUR
PRINCE ATT-RED
IN BARK?



THEN KAIKEI PERSONALLY FETCHED GARMENTS OF BARK

HERE, PUT
THESE ON



RAMA AND LAKSHMANA CHANGED INTO THE ROBES OF BARK.

HOW DO
WOMEN ASCETICS
WEAR THESE
ROBES?

I'LL SHOW
YOU.



BUT VASISHTHA INTERVENED.

SITA IS NOT COMPELLED TO GO INTO EXILE GOING OF HER OWN FREE WILL, IT IS ONLY BEFITTING THAT SHE SHOULD BE ATTIRED IN ROYAL DRESS, ALSO. LET HER KEEP HER ORNAMENTS AS WELL.

LAKSHMANNA UPHOLD VASISHTHA'S CONTENTION. SITA BOKE TO THE WISHES OF THE ELDERS, AND ACCEPTED THE ORNAMENTS OFFERED BY DASHARATHA.

RAMA THEN SALUTED DASHARATHA AND THE QUEEN, AND LEFT THE PALACE WITH SITA AND LAKSHMANNA. THEY STEPPED INTO THE CHARIOT WHICH WOULD TAKE THEM TO THE BORDERS OF THE KINGDOM.

RAMAI

SHEDDING TEARS, PEOPLE RAN AFTER THE CHARIOT WHILE THE OLD KING STOOD WATCHING HELPLESSLY.

O, CHARIOTEER, DRIVE SLOWLY! LET US BEHOLD RAMA AS LONG AS WE CAN.

PLEASE GO BACK! IF YOU REALLY LOVE ME, BESTOW THE LOVE AND HONOUR YOU SHOW TO ME ON BHARATA.

WE WILL FOLLOW YOU A LITTLE WHILE LONGER!

THEY RESUMED THEIR JOURNEY THROUGH THE DENSE FOREST. WHEN THEY REACHED PRAYAG, WHERE THE GANGA AND THE YAMUNA MEET, THEY MET SAGE BHARADWAJ.

O, BLESSED SAGE, SUGGEST A SECLUDED PLACE WHERE WE CAN LIVE IN HAPPINESS

O, CHILD, ACROSS THE YAMUNA IS THE MOUNTAIN CHITRAKUTA WHICH IS FILLED WITH FLOWERS AND FRUITS SPRINGS AND WATERFALLS. THERE YOU WILL FIND AN IDEAL RETREAT



SO RAMA WENT TO CHITRAKUTA, WHERE HE BUILT A HUT BY THE RIVER MANDAKINI ONE DAY

THE BIRDS ARE FRIGHTENED AND SEE A CLOUD OF DUST IN THE DISTANCE. LAKSHMANA, PLEASE FIND OUT WHY.

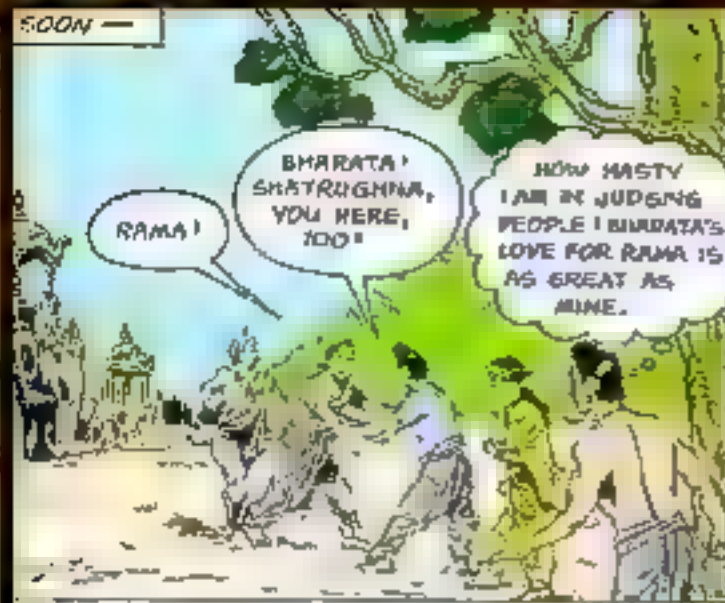


LAKSHMANA CLIMBED UP A TREE AND LOOKED INTO THE DISTANCE.

RAMA, BE ON GUARD! HAVING SECURED THE THRONE BISHMATA IS BRINGING HIS ARMY HERE TO DEPRIVE US OF OUR LIVES!

THE VIRTUOUS BHARATA? NO, YOU'LL PRESENTLY SEE THAT YOU'VE WRONGED A NOBLE SOUL





RAMA!

BHARATA:
SHATRUGHNA,
YOU HERE,
TOO!

HOW HASTY
I AM IN JUDGING
PEOPLE! BHARATA'S
LOVE FOR RAMA IS
AS GREAT AS
MINE.



BHARATA, WHY ARE YOU
DRESSED IN ASCETIC
ROBES? WHAT NEWS FROM
AYODHYA? IS OUR DEAR
FATHER WELL?



O RAMA FATHER COULD NOT
BEAR THE SEPARATION FROM
YOU! HE WANTED TO BEHOLD
YOU AGAIN THINKING OF YOU,
CALLING OUT YOUR NAME.

RAMA...
RAMA...
RAMA...



HE DIED
WHILE I WAS
YET AT MY
GRANDFATHER'S
HOUSE

OH! FATHER!
FATHER!



BHARATA, I WAS LOOKING
FORWARD TO RETURNING
TO AYODHYA AFTER MY
BATTLE. BUT I NO LONGER
FEEL THE SAME EAGER-
NESS NOW THAT
FATHER IS DEAD.

THEN RAMA OFFERED
A LIBATION OF WATER
TO HIS DEAD FATHER

O MINE, MAY THIS
SACRED WATER OFFERED
TODAY BE YOURS FOR
EVER IN THE REGION
OF OUR ANCESTORS!



SUMANTRA, VISISHTHA AND OTHER ELDERS WHO
HAD BY THEN JOINED THEM CONSOLED RAMA
RAMA TURNED TO BHARATA.

YOU HAVEN'T
ANSWERED MY QUESTION,
BHARATA, WHY ARE YOU,
TOO, DRESSED IN
ASCETIC ROBES?

RAMA, WHEN THE
LAWFUL SUCCESSOR
TO THE THRONE IS
LANGUISHING IN THE
FOREST, HOW CAN
I DON ROYAL
ROBES?



THEN BHARATA OFFERED THE ROYAL
ROBES AND SANDALS TO RAMA

PLEASE PUT ON
THESE KINGLY ROBES
AND RETURN TO
AYUDHYA.

NO BHARATA
I CANNOT DO
THAT



WHY NOT, RAMA?
IT IS THE DHARMA
OF THE ELDEST
SON TO ASCEND
THE THRONE

BHARATA, OUR DHARMA
LIES IN REDEEMING OUR
FATHER'S PLEDGE TO
MOTHER KAIKEYI.



THEN BHARATA APPEARED TO THE ELDERS.

BUT RAMA WOULD NOT YIELD.

IF, IN OBEDIENCE TO MY FATHER'S COMMAND SOME ONE MUST LIVE IN THE FOREST FOR FOURTEEN YEARS, THEN LET ME BE THE PERSON, INSTEAD OF RAMA.

THE ISSUE IS STRAIGHT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOON, YOU RIDE AND I GO INTO EXILE FOR FOURTEEN YEARS.

BHARATA GAVE IN.

IN THAT CASE, I WILL RULE - BUT ONLY ON YOUR BEHALF - WILL PLACE YOUR SANDALS ON THE THRONE AS A SYMBOL OF YOUR AUTHORITY. I WILL LIVE ON FRUITS AND ROOTS AS YOU DO.

RAMA PUT ON THE SANDALS OFFERED BY BHARATA.

AFTER A WHILE, HE TOOK THEM OFF, AND BHARATA RECEIVED THEM WITH DUE RESPECT.

THEN HE DEPARTED WITH A HEAVY HEART.

RAMA I AWAIT WITH LONGING THE HAPPY DAY WHEN YOU WILL RETURN TO AYODHYA AT THE END OF YOUR EXILE.



RAMA EMBRACED BHARATA.

MEANWHILE, LOOK AFTER THE KINGDOM. BROTHER PROTECT MOTHER KAUKEYI. DON'T BE ANGRY WITH HER.



THUS REASSURED BY RAMA, BHARATA LEFT

THEN, ACCOMPANIED BY SITA AND LAKSHMANA RAMA WENT TO THE DANDAKA FOREST WHERE HE KILLED THE RAKSHASA, VIRADHA.



SEVERAL SAGES LIVING IN THE FOREST MET RAMA

WE ARE WITHOUT A PROTECTOR DEFEND US FROM THE CRUEL PERSECUTION OF THE RAKSHASAS.

I WILL I



LATER, RAMA CALLED ON SAGE AGASTYA AND PAID HIS RESPECTS THE SAGE GAVE HIM CELESTIAL WEAPONS.

HOLY ONE, I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS. PLEASE SUGGEST A PLACE WHERE I CAN DWELL WITH MY WIFE AND BROTHER!

GO TO PANCHAVATI, EIGHT MILES AWAY, AND LIVE THERE HAPPILY



ON THE WAY TO PANCHAVATI, AN
AGED VULTURE ADDRESSED HIM --

O RAMA ! AM JATAYU,
A FRIEND OF YOUR FATHER'S
I WILL STAY AROUND WITH
YOU IN CASE YOU NEED MY
HELP.

THANK YOU.
YOUR PRESENCE
WILL BE A
COMFORT

WHEN RAMA REACHED PANCHAVATI --

THIS IS THE
PERFECT SPOT
TO BUILD OUR
COTTAGE

ASHOKAKHANA BEGAN TO BUILD AN
ASHRAM* FOR HIS BROTHER.

WHEN IT WAS READY, HE BATHED IN THE HOLY
ODDAVARI HE PRAYED TO THE GODS AND PLACED
A LOTUS ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE COTTAGE AS AN
OFFERING TO THEM.

THEN HE SHOWED THE ASHRAM TO RAMA

IT'S WONDERFUL
THE ONLY WAY
I CAN REWARD
YOU IS BY --

EMBRACING YOU.

THE ASHRAH WAS SPACIOUS AND COMFORTABLE THEY SPENT MANY HAPPY DAYS THERE. ONE DAY, SHOORPANSHA, A RAKSHASI, WHO WAS PASSING THROUGH PANCHAVATI, SAW RAMA

WHAT A HANDSOME MAN! I WOULD LIKE TO MARRY HIM

ASSUMING A BEAUTIFUL FORM, SHE APPROACHED RAMA.

O, ASCETIC ARMED WITH BOW AND ARROW. WHY HAVE YOU COME TO THIS REGION OF THE RAKSHASAS?

AM RAMA, THE SON OF KING DASHARATHA, AND FOR FOURTEEN YEARS I HAVE TO LIVE IN EXILE IN THE FOREST.

I AM SHOORPANSHA, SISTER OF THE MIGHTY RAVANA KHARA AND DOOSHANA OF MATCHLESS STRENGTH, WHO RULE JANASTHANA ARE MY BROTHERS...

O PRINCE, MARRY ME MY BEAUTY MATCHES YOURS.

RAMA SMILED AND REPLIED IN A MOCKING TONE.

I AM ALREADY MARRIED, BUT, LOOK, HERE IS MY BROTHER, LAKSHMANA, HE IS WORTHY OF YOU, O BEAUTIFUL ONE!

YOU ARE A PRINCESS
AND AM ONLY RAMA'S
SLAVE WOULD IT BE
PROPER FOR YOU
TO MARRY ME?

NO!

ANGRILY, SHODRANAKHA TURNED
TO RAMA.

ARE YOU SPURNING
ME BECAUSE OF
YOUR UGLY
WIFE?

I'LL DEVOUR HER
THEN WILL YOU
MARRY ME?

AS SHE RUSHED
TOWARDS SITA —

STOP HER,
LAKSHMANA!

LAKSHMANA LEAPT AT HER AND CUT OFF
HER EARS AND NOSE. SHODRANAKHA
REGAINED HER TRUE FORM AND FLED.

NOT LONG AFTER, SHOORPANAKHA RETURNED TO PANCHAVATI WITH DOOSHANA, KIDARA AND FOURTEEN THOUSAND RAKSHASAS.



LAKSHMANA, LEAVE THE RAKSHASAS TO ME! YOU TAKE SITA AWAY FROM HERE INTO THE SHELTER OF THAT CAVE!

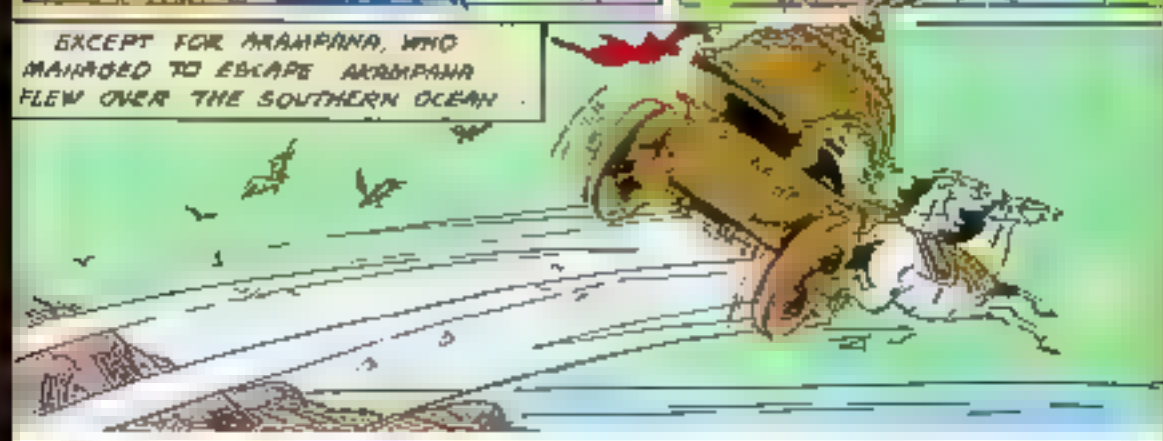
THE NEXT MOMENT RAMA WAS SURROUNDED BY RAKSHASAS —



AND HE KILLED THEM ALL SINGLE HANDED.



EXCEPT FOR AKAMPANA, WHO MANAGED TO ESCAPE. AKAMPANA FLEW OVER THE SOUTHERN OCEAN.



... AND REACHED LANKA, WHERE RULED RAVANA, THE MIGHTY KING OF RAKHSHAS.

O KING, YOUR VALIANT BROTHERS, KHARA AND DOOSHANA, HAVE BEEN SLAIN BY RAMA, THE PRINCE OF AYODHYA

MY BROTHERS
KILLED BY A MERE
MAN!

HE HAS INVITED
HIS OWN DESTRUCTION
BY KILLING
MY BROTHERS!
I'LL SLAY HIM!

O MIGHTY ONE, NOT
EVEN THE GODS
CAN OVERCOME
RAMA!

THE ONLY WAY TO DESTROY HIM
IS TO CARRY AWAY HIS BEAUTIFUL
WIFE, SITA. PERCEPT OF HER WHOM
HE LOVES DEARLY HE WILL
CERTAINLY BE OF A BROKEN
HEART!

LET ME
CONSULT
MARICHA

RAVANA CALLED ON MARICHA WHO WAS NOW
LEADING AN ASCETIC LIFE.

RAVANA, HE WHO HAS ADVISED
YOU TO CARRY AWAY SITA IS AN
ENEMY IN THE GUISE OF A FRIEND.

MARICHA THEN RECALLED HIS
OWN ENCOUNTER WITH RAMA

DON'T ANTAGONISE RAMA
WHO HUNTS DEMONS AS
HE WOULD PERISH

I'D BETTER
TAKE YOUR
ADVICE

WHEN HE RETURNED HOME, RAVANA FOUND SHODRANAKHA WAITING FOR HIM.

BROTHER, LOOK AT YOUR DEAR SISTER MUTILATED BY THAT MAN FROM AYODHYA! IF YOU DON'T AVENGE THE DEATH OF KHARA AND DOOSHANA, BOTH THE GODS AND HUMANS WILL CEASE TO FEAR THE RAKSHASAS! YOU MUST ACT AT ONCE!

RAVANA WENT TO MARICHA AGAIN TO SEEK HIS HELP IN ABDUCTING SITA—

O KING, THERE IS NO GREATER SIN THAN COVETING ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE! LEAVE SITA ALONE

YOU REFUSE? THEN YOU SHALL FEEL THE KEEN EDGE OF MY BLADE!

I'LL DO WHAT YOU ASK. BUT, REMEMBER, THOSE FOR WHOM THE LAST HOUR HAS STRUCK DISREGARD THE COUNSEL OF THEIR WILL-WISHERS

MEANWHILE, AT PANCHAVATI, RAMA AND SITA RESUMED THEIR QUIET LIFE. THE UNPLEASANT EPISODE WITH SHODRANAKHA WAS FORGOTTEN.

RAMA LOOK AT THAT BEAUTIFUL FLOWER! IT HAS JUST OPENED ITS FACE TO THE SUN!

YES, YOU SHOWED IT TO ME YESTERDAY, WHEN IT WAS JUST A BUD!

JUST THEN, RAVANA AND MARICHA HAD ARRIVED AT PANCHAVATI

O! SHE IS QUITE LOVELY!

MARICHA, YOUR TASK IS TO LURE RAMA AND LAKSHMANA AWAY FROM THE COTTAGE.

THE NEXT MOMENT



OH! LOOK! WHAT
A LOVELY DEER!

IGNORING LAKSHMANA'S WORDS, SITA
CONTINUED —

THAT DEER IS TOO
WONDERFUL TO BE REAL
LOOK HOW IT SHINES
IT COULD ONLY BE
A RAKSHASA!

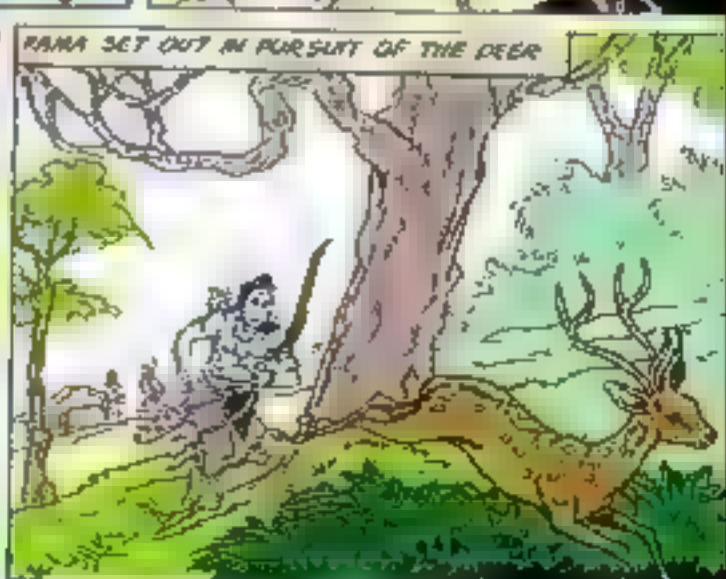
ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL,
RAMA! WILL YOU
GET IT FOR ME?

CERTAINLY,
MY DEAR!



LAKSHMANA, I'LL BRING
THAT DEER BACK ALIVE IF IT IS
A RAKSHASA IN DISGUISE.
I'LL SLAY HIM. YOU STAY
HERE AND GUARD SITA.

RAMA SET OUT IN PURSUIT OF THE DEER



SITA AND LAKSHMANA WAITED A LONG TIME BUT RAMA STILL DID NOT RETURN

THE SWIFT-FOOTED DEER
MUST HAVE LED HIM FAR

RAMA WILL GET
THE DEER, DEAD
OR ALIVE

SUDDENLY -

O SITA
O LAKSHMANA...

MY
LORD!

IT IS MY LORD CRYING FOR
HELP. LAKSHMANA! RUSH TO
HIS AID. HE MUST BE IN
DANGER!

LAKSHMANA WAS UNPERTURBED.

HE CAN'T BE RAMA IS
INVINCIBLE IT MUST BE A
RAKSHASA MIMICKING HIM
WOULDN'T LEAVE
YOUR SIDE

BUT SITA WAS NOT CONVINCED

GO LAKSHMANA!
PLEASE GO! HELP
MY HUSBAND!

I CAN'T GO I CAN'T
LEAVE YOU HERE
UNPROTECTED



RAVANA THEN WENT TOWARDS SITA IN THE
GUISE OF AN ASCETIC.



GOOD LADY, YOU LIVE
HERE ALONE? IN THIS
FOREST WHICH IS
FULL OF RAKSHASAS
AND WILD ANIMALS?

SITA OFFERED HIM WATER TO WASH HIS
FEET, AND FRUIT TO EAT



MY LORD, RAMA, HAS
GONE TO CAPTURE A
DEER FOR ME HE
WILL RETURN
SOON



O SITA, I'M RAVANA,
KING OF THE RAKSHASAS.
FORGET RAMA AND
COME WITH ME TO MY
GREAT KINGDOM,
LANKA THERE YOU
SHALL BE MY QUEEN!



I AM RAMA'S CONSORT
AND HIS ALONE I WIL
MAN, TO CARRY ME
AWAY WOULD BE LI
TAKING A BLAZING
FIRE IN YOUR
GARMENTS!

RAMA IS MY INFERIOR
IN COMBAT. ACCEPT
ME AS YOUR LORD!

O, RAKSHASA HE
WHO INSULTS A
CHASTE LADY WILL
NEVER ESCAPE
DEATH EVEN IF HE
DRINKS THE NECTAR
OF IMMORTALITY

HAVEN'T YOU
HEARD OF MY VALOUR?
I CAN LIFT THE EARTH
PIERCE THE SUN AND
DESTROY DEATH
HIMSELF IN COMBAT!

INFLAMED BY SITA'S BEAUTY AND ANGERED BY HER REJECTION OF HIM,
RAVANA ASSUMED HIS TRUE FORM AND DRAGGED SITA OUT
OF THE COTTAGE

SURRENDER TO
A MASTER FAMED
THROUGHOUT THE
THREE WORLDS!

O RAMA!
O RAMA!

RAVANA CARRIED SITA TO HIS CHARIOT AND BEGAN SPEEDING THROUGH THE SKY TOWARDS

ANKA

O, RAMA !
O, LAKSHMANA !


MEANWHILE IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST

LAKSHMANA ! YOU'RE
HERE ALONE !
WHERE'S SITA ?

RAMA, WE
HEARD YOU CRY OUT
FOR HELP SITA INSISTED
THAT I LEAVE HER AND
COME TO YOUR RESCUE


I DID NOT CRY OUT ! AS
YOU SUSPECTED THE
DEER WAS NO ORDINARY
DEER IT WAS
MARICHA, THE RAKHASA.

CHASSED HIM AND, THOUGH
HE WAS SWIFT AS THE
WIND I FINALLY SHOT HIM
DOWN WHEN MY ARROW
STRUCK HIM, HIS TRUE
FORM BECAME APPARENT !




THEN MIMICKING MY
VOICE WITH HIS DYING
BREATH HE CALLED
OUT YOUR NAME AND
SITA'S!

KNEW IT WAS
NOT YOU! BUT SITA
WAS DISTRACTED
BY FEAR
AND FORCED ME
TO COME!



ANYWAY, THE
RAKSHASA WAS NOW
KILLED. LET'S
HURRY BACK!



LAKSHMANA,
CAN ALL BE
WELL? SITA IS
NOT HERE TO
GREET US!

WHEN THE TWO REACHED THE ASHRAM, AN OMINOUS SILENCE GREETED THEM



SITA!

BUT SITA WAS NOT THERE OVERCOME BY GRIEF, RAMA ADDRESSED THE TREES IN THE ASHRAM

O KADAMBA YOUR FLOWERS WERE ADMIRRED BY MY BELOVED. HAVE YOU SEEN HER? TELL ME WHERE SHE IS!



O ASHOKA TALA SHALA VISHALA
BAKULA CHANDANA,
WHERE IS MY
SITA?

SUDDENLY —

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING
AWAY FROM ME, MY
BELOVED? I HAVE
SEEN YOU!



STOP! ENOUGH
OF FUN, SITA!
DON'T YOU SEE
I'M SUFFERING?
COME BACK, MY
BELOVED!

THE NEXT MOMENT —

NO, IT WAS AN
ILLUSION! MY SITA
IS NOT ALIVE!



DON'T GIVE UP HOPE SO QUICKLY.
SITA MAY HAVE VENTURED
DEEP INTO THE FOREST OR
GONE TO THE RIVER.



THEY SEARCHED FOR A LONG TIME—BUT IT WAS
IN VAIN

O, SITA! HOW
SHALL I EXPLAIN
YOUR ABSENCE TO
YOUR FATHER
WHEN I RETURN
FROM EXILE?



I WILL NOT RETURN
AFTER OUR PERIOD OF
EXILE, YOU MUST GO
BACK TO AYODHYA
WITHOUT ME,
LAKSHMANA



WE WILL FIND SITA!
I AM CERTAIN WE
WILL!

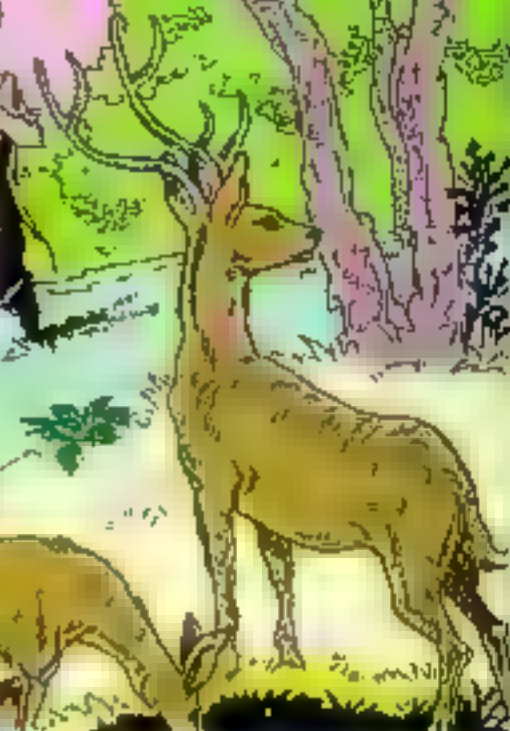


O SUN, YOU WITNESS
EVERYTHING THAT TAKES
PLACE ON EARTH. TELL ME,
HAS MY BELOVED WANDERED
AWAY OR HAS SHE BEEN
ABDUCTED?



RAMA CONTINUED HIS SEARCH, ASKING RIVERS, TREES
AND ANIMALS THE SAME QUESTION

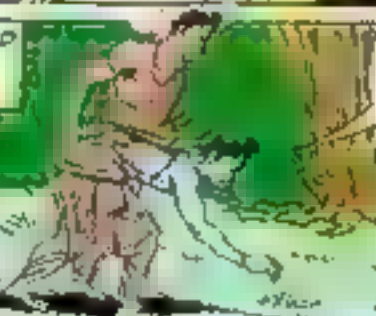
O DEER, SITA
LOVED YOU. TELL
ME WHERE SHE
IS!



RAMA THE DEER KEEPS
LOOKING SOUTHWARDS.
LET'S GO IN THAT
DIRECTION!



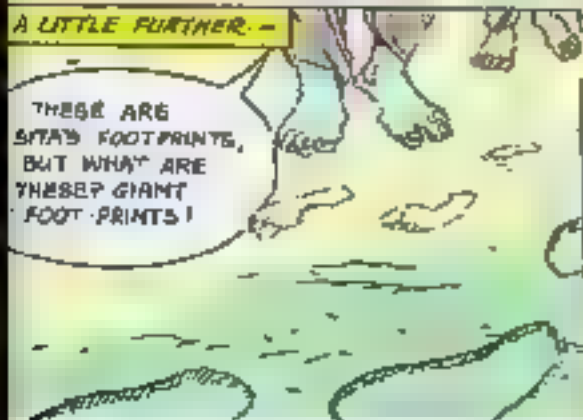
WHEN THE BROTHERS PROCEEDED
SOUTHWARDS, RAMA FOUND
SOME FLOWERS SCATTERED
ON THE GROUND.



LOOK, LAKSHMANA! THESE ARE
THE FLOWERS I HAD GATHERED
FOR SITA THE SUMMER.
THE WIND AND THE EARTH
HAVE PRESERVED THEM
FOR ME!

A LITTLE FURTHER -

THESE ARE
SITA'S FOOTPRINTS,
BUT WHAT ARE
THESE GIANT
FOOT-PRINTS!



AND THESE
ARE SOME OF HER
ORNAMENTS.



A SHATTERED CHARIOT,
A BROKEN BOW, DEAD
MULES AND A
CHARIOTEER KILLED!
WHAT'S THIS & A
BATTLE FOUGHT
FOR SITA?

THE NEXT MOMENT, RAMA FLEW INTO
AN UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE.

MY BELOVED HAD BEEN
TAKEN AWAY FROM ME! IF
THE GODS DO NOT RESTORE
HER TO ME NOW, I'LL
DESTROY THE WHOLE
WORLD!

AS RAMA PREPARED TO RELEASE
HIS TERRIBLE ARROW—

WAIT!

DON'T DESTROY THE
WORLD FOR ONE MAN'S
SIN! SEEK OUT YOUR
TORMENTOR AND
PUNISH HIM BY ALL
MEANS, BUT SPARE
INNOCENT LIVES.

THIS PACIFIED, RAMA WITHDREW THE ARROW AND
PROCEEDED FURTHER SILENTLY—

THAT RAKSHASA, THERE IN THE
FORM OF A VULTURE! HAVING
DEVoured MY BELOVED, HE
IS NOW RESTING. WRETCH!
I WILL KILL YOU!

THEN HE STOPPED IN SURPRISE —

IT IS JUDYU!
AND HE IS HURT!

O, RAMA I SAW SITA
BEING CARRIED AWAY
BY RAVANA!



I KILLED HIS CHARIOTEER
AND MULES

AND SHATTERED HIS CHARIOT
RAVANA JUMPED TO THE GROUND,
CARRYING SITA WITH HIM.



LEAVING SITA THERE, RAVANA ROSE
INTO THE SKY AGAIN.

CHILD, RUN AWAY TO
SAFETY I'LL DEAL WITH
THIS WRETCH!



RAVANA STRUCK ME HE SEVERED MY
WINGS AND CLAWS.



AS I FELL DOWN BLEEDING SITA CAME
RUSHING BACK TO ME.



WITH A SIGH JATAYU CONCLUDED HIS
TALK

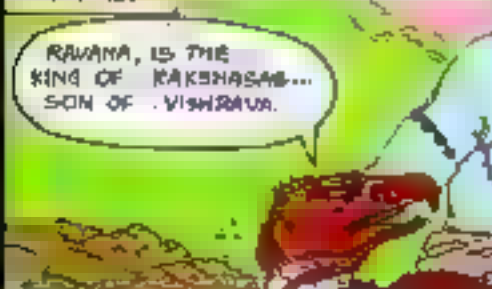


JUST THEN RAVANA
SEIZED HER AND
CARRIED HER AWAY
SOUTHWARDS.



O NOBLE BIRD,
TELL ME, WHO
IS THIS
RAVANA?

GASPING FOR BREATH, JATAYU SPOKE
HALTINGLY



RAVANA, IS THE
KING OF RAKSHASAS...
SON OF VISHRAVA.



RESUMING THEIR JOURNEY, RAMA AND LAKSHMANA TROSSED THE BLUE PAMPA AS THEY APPROACHED RISHANMUKA MOUNTAIN A MENDICANT MET THEM

YOU ARE STRANGERS HERE WHERE HAVE YOU COME FROM?

ER... ER...

SEEING THEIR HESITATION, HE CONTINUED.

DON'T BE AFRAID SUGREEVA, THE KING OF THE MONKEYS, DESIRES YOUR FRIENDSHIP I AM HANUMAN, HIS MINISTER

O, HANUMAN WE HAVE HEARD OF SUGREEVA'S VALOUR IN THE WE HAVE COME IN SEARCH OF HIM

LAKSHMANA THEN TOLD HANUMAN ABOUT RAMA'S EXILE AND SITA'S ABDUCTION

MY KING, SUGREEVA TOO, IS AN exile HIS BROTHER HAS TREATED HIM CRUELLY, FORCING HIM TO FLEE FROM MISHA NADIA, THE MONKEY KINGDOM SUGREEVA WILL MAKE A PACT OF FRIENDSHIP WITH YOU

HANUMAN ASSUMED HIS TRUE FORM AND CARRIED THEM.



TO RISHNAMUKA MOUNTAIN WHERE
SUGREEVA LIVED AFTER HANUMAN HAD
RELATED RAMA'S STORY -

INDEED, I AM
FORTUNATE THAT YOU
SEEK MY FRIENDSHIP!

WITH FORE AS WITNESS, RAMA AND
SUGREEVA WERE UNITED IN FRIENDSHIP.

YOU ARE NOW MY FRIEND.
IN JOY AND SORROW,
WE ARE ONE.

SUGREEVA, I WILL
HELP YOU REGAIN
YOUR KINGDOM

RAMA, I WILL HELP YOU
GET BACK YOUR WIFE
BE SHE HIDDEN IN
HEAVEN OR IN
THE HETTER
WORLD!

WE SAW SITA
BEING CARRIED AWAY SHE
WAS CALLING OUT YOUR
NAME AND SHE EVEN THREW
DOWN HER JEWELS
BUT WE HAVE
PRESERVED.

BRING THEM
TO ME QUICKLY,
DEAR FRIEND!

SUGRĒVA BROUGHT SITA'S JEWELS FROM THE CAVE RAMA TOOK THEM DEARLY



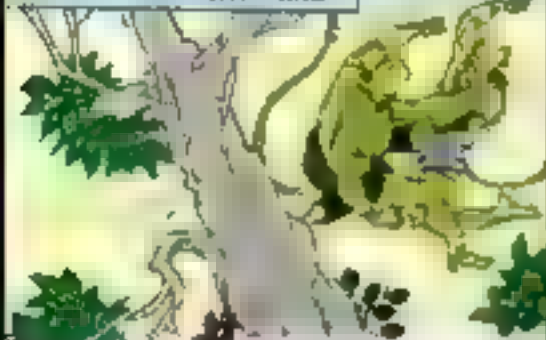
HE SHOWED THEM TO LAKSHMANA

O LAKSHMANA, DON'T YOU RECOGNISE SITA'S ORNAMENTS?

DON'T RECOGNISE THE BRACELET AND EARRINGS, BUT DO KNOW THESE ANKLETS FOR I WORSHIPPED HER FEET ALONE



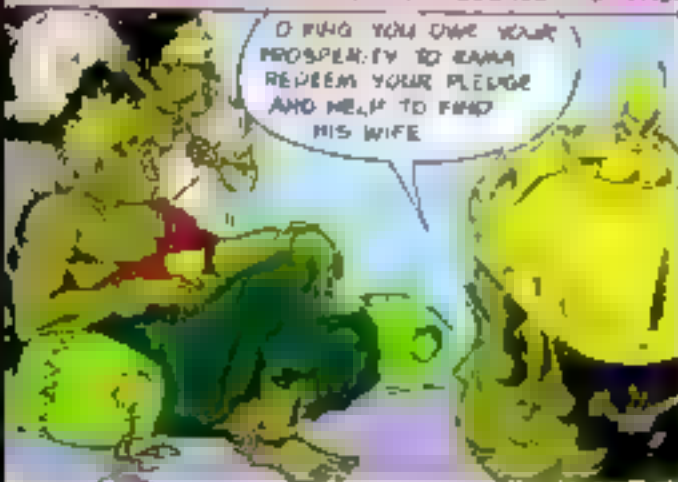
AFTER, SUGRĒVA CHALLENGED HIS WICKED BROTHER WALI TO FIGHT HIM ALTHOUGH BADLY BEATEN EARLIER HE FOUGHT RAMA, CONFIDENT THAT RAMA WOULD PLAY HIS PART AT THE RIGHT TIME



RAMA'S ARROW FOUND ITS MARK AND WALI WAS SLAIN



RAMA CROWNED SUGRĒVA THE KING OF MITHILANANDA UNFORTUNATELY, FORGETTING HIS DUTY TO RAMA THE RAVI HAD HIMSELF UP TO A LIFE OF PLEASURE THEN HANUMAN GENTLY REBUKED HIS KING.



REPENTANT, SUGRĒVA'S SENSE OF DUTY WAS AROUSED HE CALLED A MEETING OF THE MONKEYS.

MY LOYAL SOLDIERS I WANT YOU TO SPREAD OUT AND GO IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS IN SEARCH OF SITA!



BEFORE HANUMAN SET OUT RAVANA
GAVE HIM A RING

IF ANYONE CAN FIND SITA
IT IS YOU, HANUMAN. TAKE
THIS RING! IT WILL BE A
SIGN TO HER THAT
YOU ARE MY
MESSENGER.



HANUMAN WENT SOUTHWARDS ACCOMPANIED BY
ANGADA, THE CROWN PRINCE OF KISHKINDHA,
JAMBAVAN, THE AGED AND WISE BEAR, AND
MONKEYS OF GREAT STRENGTH



THOUGH THEY SEARCHED CAREFULLY AND LONG, THEY
COULD NOT FIND ANY TRACE OF SITA



WHAT SHALL
WE DO?

THIS IS A
FRUITLESS SEARCH!
WE'LL NEVER
FIND SITA!

THEN THEY NOTICED THE
VULTURE, SAMPATI, BROTHER
OF JATAYU, WHO HAD BEEN
WATCHING THEM.



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR
SITA? SAW RAVANA
CARRYING HER ACROSS
THE OCEAN TO HIS
ISLAND KINGDOM
LANKA

SO HANUMAN AND HIS ARMY RESUMED THEIR JOURNEY
WHEN THEY REACHED THE SOUTHERN OCEAN, THEY
WERE FILLED WITH DISMAY

THIS VAST STRETCH OF OCEAN
LIES BETWEEN US AND LANKA
HOW SHALL WE GET ACROSS!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
WE CAN'T GET
TO LANKA!

THERE MUST BE A WAY!
PERHAPS ONE OF US
COULD JUMP ACROSS
AND DEAL WITH
RAYANA

WHO WILL DO
IT? WHO CAN
JUMP THE
FARTHEST?

I CAN LEAP
THREE
HUNDRED
YOGANAS!

I, FOUR
HUNDRED!

I, FIVE
HUNDRED!

BUT THERE WAS NO ONE AMONG THEM WHO
COULD JUMP FAR ENOUGH, EXCEPT HANUMAN
WHEN THE AGED BEAR APPROACHED HIM

O HANUMAN ONLY YOU CAN CROSS
THE OCEAN! WHY ARE YOU SILENT?
DON'T YOU KNOW YOUR OWN
POWER?

* ONE YOGANA IS EQUAL TO THIRTEEN KILOMETRES

WHEN YOU WERE BUT A CHILD,
YOU LEAPT TO SEIZE THE
RISING SUN MISTAKING IT
FOR A FRUIT!



COME HANUMAN, LEAP
ACROSS THE MIGHTY OCEAN!
NO ONE CAN SURPASS
YOU IN STRENGTH AND
SPEED!

YES,
JAMBAYAN
WILL FLY
TO LANKA.



THEN HANUMAN, THE SON OF THE
WIND GOD, ASSUMED A HUGE FORM



AND LEAPED INTO THE SKY



HANUMAN FLEW AT A GREAT SPEED.



SUDDENLY, A HUGE MOUNTAIN ROSE UP FROM THE OCEAN. HANUMAN STRUCK IT HARD.



AND THE DEAN ASSUMED THE FORM OF A HUMAN FACE.

I AM MOUNT MAHAKA. YOUR FATHER ONCE HELPED ME REST HERE A WHILE FOR YOU HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

THANK YOU BUT I CAN'T REST TILL MY MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED.



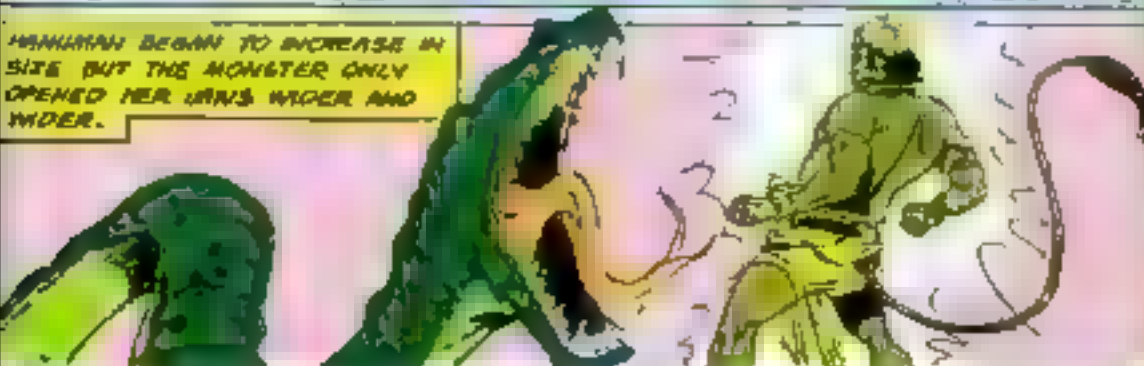
HANUMAN HAD BARELY FLOWN PAST MOUNT MAHAKA WHEN A NEW DANGER CONFRONTED HIM. SHAYDA, MOTHER OF SERPENTS, WHO HAD ASSUMED THE TERRIBLE FORM OF A SEA MONSTER TO TEST HANUMAN, WAITED FOR HIM WITH BURNING RAGE!



NO ONE CAN PASS ME WITHOUT ENTERING MY MOUTH AND ONCE YOU ENTER YOU CAN'T GET OUT ALIVE. SO PREPARE TO DIE!

BUT CAN YOUR MOUTH HOLD ME?

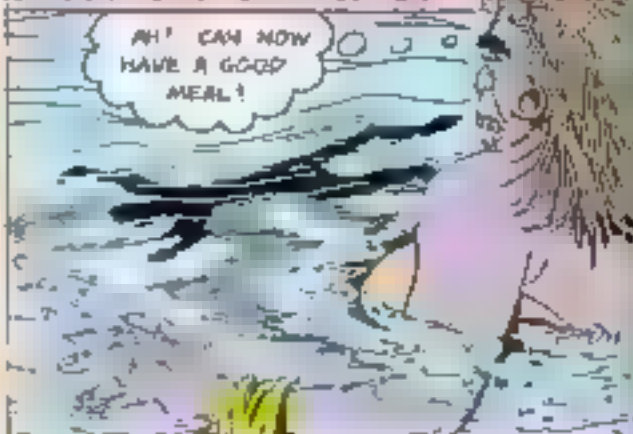
HANUMAN BEGAN TO INCREASE IN SIZE BUT THE MONSTER ONLY OPENED HER JAW'S WIDER AND WIDER.



SUDDENLY HANUMAN REDUCED HIMSELF TO THE SIZE OF A THUMB AND, ENTERING HER MOUTH, FLASHED OUT AGAIN.



MEANWHILE, A RAKSHASI, SUMIKA, WHO WAS LOOKING FOR FOOD, SPIED HIS SHADOW AS HE FLEW PAST HER.



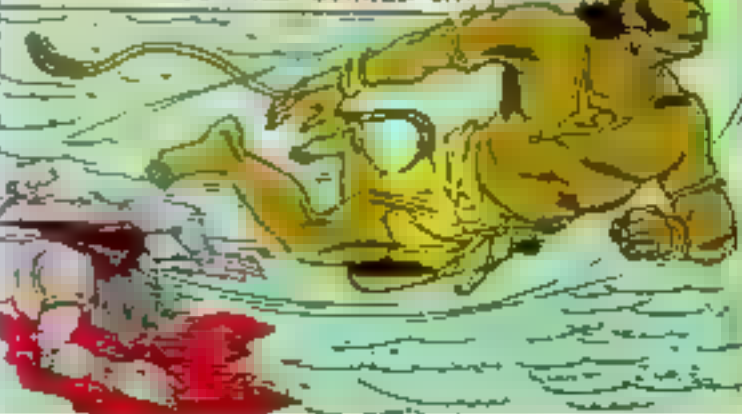
SUMIKA SEIZED AT HIS SHADOW



THE RAKSHASI OPENED HER MOUTH WIDE AS HANUMAN WAS DRAWN INTO HER JAW BY A MYSTERIOUS FORCE.



BUT HE TORE OPEN HER BODY AND, EMERGING UNSCATHED SOARED ON.



WHEN, AT LAST, HE REACHED LANKA AND WAS ABOUT TO ENTER UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF THE CITY BARRED THE WAY.

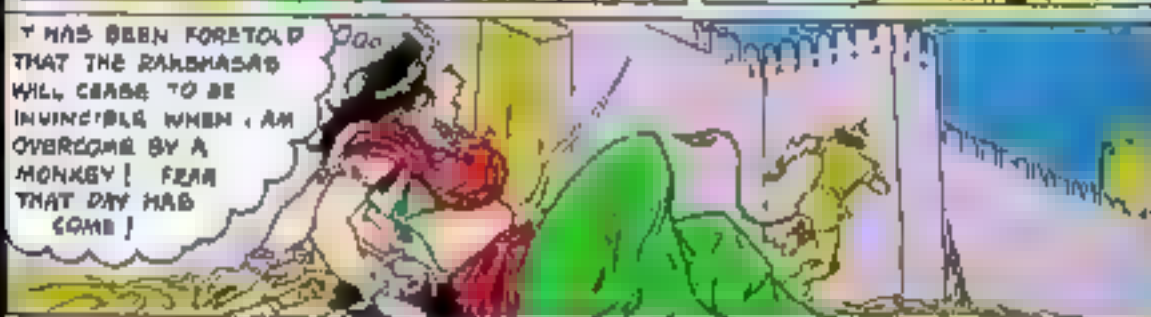


FOULHARDY CREATURE! HOW DARE YOU ENTER THIS CITY WHEN I AM HERE TO PROTECT IT?

THERE! THAT WILL TAKE CARE OF HER FOR THE MOMENT!

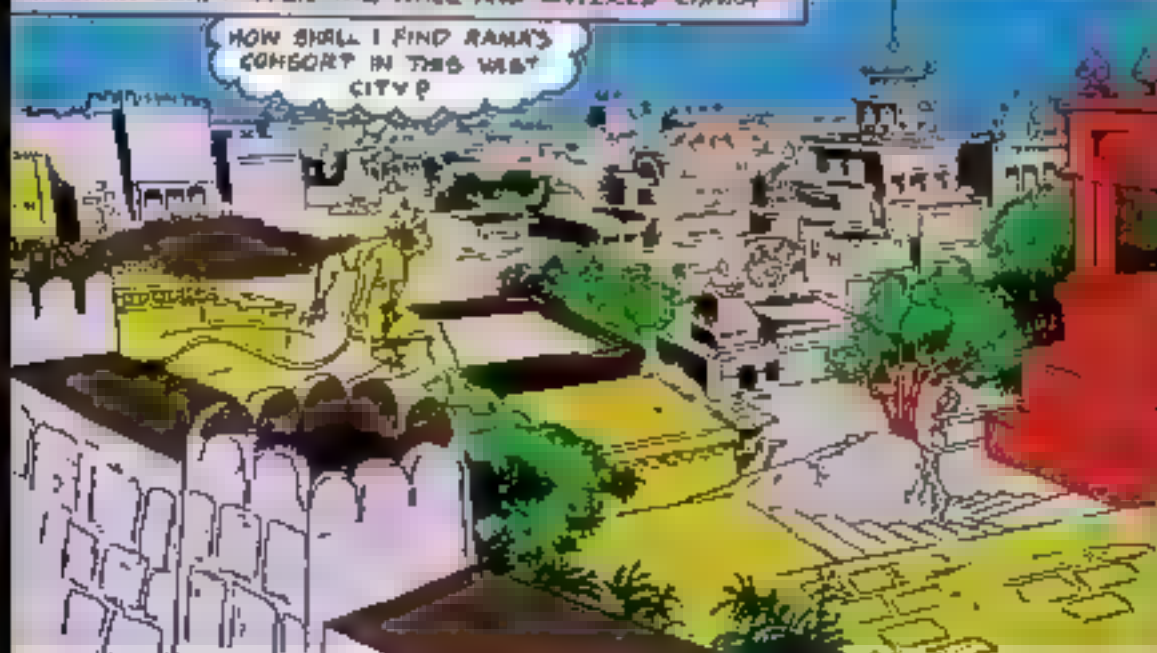


IT HAS BEEN FORETOLD THAT THE RAKSHASAS WILL CEASE TO BE INVINCIBLE WHEN I AM OVERCOME BY A MONKEY! FEAR THAT DAY HAS COME!



HANUMAN LEAPT OVER THE WALL AND ENTERED LANKA

HOW SHALL I FIND RAMA'S CONSORT IN THIS WAST CITY?



HE WALKED THROUGH THE GOLDEN CITY OF LAHKA
TILL, AT LAST, HE CAME TO THE PALACE



NO, IT CAN'T BE SITA!
SEPARATED FROM RAMA WOULD
SHE BE ABLE TO SLEEP? OR
EAT? WOULD SHE YIELD TO
RAVANA? THIS MUST BE SOME
OTHER LADY - ONE OF RAMANA'S
QUEENS, PERHAPS



HANUMAN LEFT THE
PALACE ON REACHING A
NEARBY GROVE, HE CLIMB-
ED THE TALLEST TREE

WILL I FIND
RAMA'S CONSORT
IN THIS GROVE?

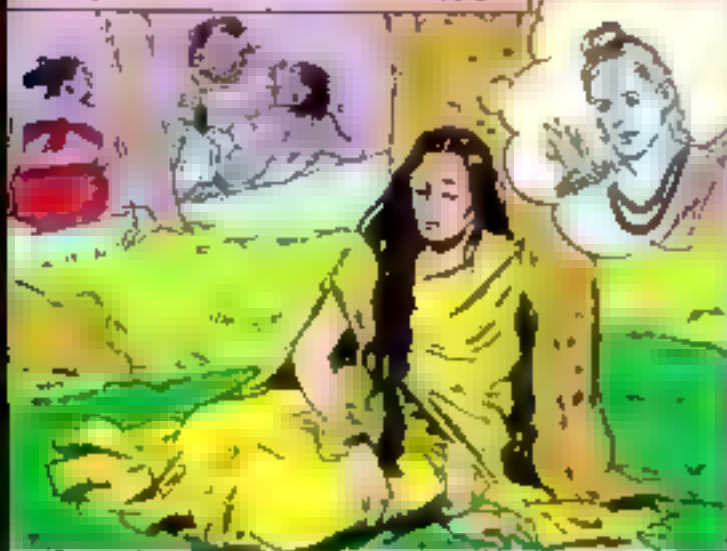


ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT HE WANDERED SADLY ABOUT
THE GROVE AT DAY BREAK -

THINK HAVE FOUND
HER! THERE SHE IS,
THINKING ONLY OF
RAMA!



I WAS INDEED SITA HELD CAPTIVE IN THE ASHOKA GROVE, GUARDED BY THE RAKSHASIS



JUST THEN RAMANA ENTERED THE GROVE



O SITA WHY DO YOU PINE FOR A HUSBAND WHO IS NOT MY MATCH IN STRENGTH, PROWESS, WEALTH OR FAME? YOU HAVE NO CHOICE SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL HAVE TO AGREE TO BE MY QUEEN.



SITA HER THOUGHTS FIXED ON RAMA, PLACED A STRAW BETWEEN RAVANA AND HERSELF

JUST AS YOU CANNOT SEPARATE THE SUN FROM SUNLIGHT, YOU CANNOT SEPARATE RAMA FROM ME IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE, RETURN ME TO MY LORD AND SEEK HIS PROTECTION



MY SWEET WORDS HAVE EARNED YOUR WRATH, NOT YOUR LOVE. WON'T STAND YOUR AROGANCE ANY LONGER!



WHEN RAVANA LEFT, SLEETHING WITH ANGER,
THE RAKSHASIS TURNED TO SITA

SITA, I'LL GIVE YOU
TWO MONTHS THEN.
IF YOU DON'T
YIELD, MY COOKS
WILL MINCE YOUR
LIMBS FOR MY
MORNING MEAL!

WHY DON'T
YOU MAKE OUR
LORD HAPPY?

HOW DARE YOU
REFUSE HIM AGAIN
AND AGAIN?

AGREE
TO MARRY
HIM!

NO! I WON'T AGREE
EVEN IF YOU
THREATEN TO
DEVOUR ME!

THAT'S A GOOD
IDEA! WHY DON'T
WE JUST DEVOUR
HER?

THAT WILL SOLVE RAVANA'S
PROBLEMS TOO!

WE CAN
JUST SAY
SHE DIED!

THE RAGNATHS, DUTIED ARMY
DISCUSSING THE MATTER LOUDLY



HAPPY ARE
THOSE WHO ARE
ABLE TO BEHOLD
MY LORD SMALL
EVER OR
REUNITED
WITH HIM P

HANUMAN HAD BY NOW, REACHED THE
DWARLIES ABOVE SITA

THE GRIEF STRICKEN SITA IS NOT HERSELF
F MAKE MY APPEARANCE BEFORE HIM
NOW SHE MAY MISTAKE ME FOR KAVANA
THE DISGUISE, WHICH WILL HAD CONSEQUENCE
FIRST, WILL SPEAK TO HER OF KAVANA'S
EXPLOITS



SITA TIGHTENED THE CORD THAT HELD HER HAIR
TOGETHER



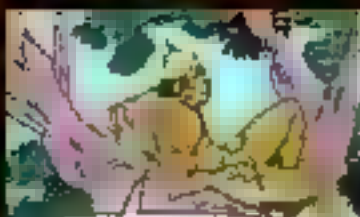
NO I HAVE NO ALTER-
NATIVE I'LL DO AWAY
WITH MY LIFE WITH
THE HELP OF THIS
CORD

HANUMAN BEGAN TO SPEAK SOFTLY ABOUT
RAMA

AT THE COMMAND OF HIS
FATHER RAMA THE PRINCE OF
AYODHYA LEFT FOR THE
FOREST ACCOMPANIED BY HIS
CONSORT SITA AND HIS
BROTHER LAKSHMANA.

WHO IS THAT TALKING
ABOUT MY LORD IN THIS
COUNTRY OF NAKHASAS?





IN THE FOREST, RAMANA
CARRIED SITA AWAY
THOUSANDS OF MONKEYS,
FRIENDS OF RAMA SET OUT
TO SEARCH FOR SITA AND
HAVE FOUND HER HERE
AT LAST!

OH! IT'S
A MONKEY!

THE NEXT MOMENT —

IT MUST BE AN
ILLUSION I HEAR
AND I SEE ONLY
THOSE THINGS
RELATED TO RAMA!



BUT HANUMAN CONTINUED TO
SPEAK ABOUT RAMA TO ALLAY HER
FEARS.



I AM HANUMAN
RAMA'S MESSENGER
HERE IS THE RING
HE GAVE ME FOR
YOU CAN YOU
TRUST ME NOW?

SITA EAGERLY TOOK
THE RING



I AM OVERCOME
WITH JOY TO
BEHOLD MY
LORD'S RING!



IS RAMA VERY ANXIOUS
ON MY ACCOUNT? DOES HE
CONTINUE TO CARE FOR ME?
WILL HE RESCUE ME? WILL
HE STRIKE DOWN THIS VILE
CREATURE WHO WISHES TO
DEFILE ME?

RAMA WILL RESCUE YOU
NOTHING ELSE OCCUPIES
HIS MIND BUT NO ONE
KNEW WHERE YOU WERE
AND HE SENT ME AHEAD TO
FIND OUT.



I WILL GO BACK AND TELL HIM YOU
ARE HERE AND HE WILL COME AT
ONCE TO RESCUE YOU OR, PERHAPS,
I COULD JUST CARRY YOU
ON MY BACK TO RAMA.



NO, HANUMAN
RAMA WILL COME
AND DESTROY RAVANA
AND TAKE ME AWAY
FROM HERE ONLY
THAT WILL VINDICATE
MY HONOUR.

TAKING OUT A JEWEL WHICH SHE HAD
CONCEALED IN HER CLOTHES, SHE OFFERED
IT TO HANUMAN.



GIVE THIS
TO MY LORD.

ASK HIM TO
RESCUE ME FROM
THE CRUEL AND
WICKED RAVANA.



RAMA WILL BE HERE
SOON RAVANA WILL FALL
BY RAMA'S ARROW AND
YOU WILL BE REUNITED
WITH YOUR LORD!

NOW MUST FIND
OUT WHAT THE
STRENGTH OF THE
ENEMY IS. SHOULD
FIND A WAY OF
MEETING RAVANA
TO DISCOVER
WHAT HE HAS
IN MIND

TO ATTRACT ATTENTION, HE BEGAN TO UPROOT THE
TREES OF THE ASHOKA GROVE



CAPTURE THAT
MONKEY!

HANUMAN DEFEATED NOT ONLY THE GUARDS
BUT ALSO THE ARMY WHICH FOLLOWED
CLOSE BEHIND



HANUMAN KILLED MANY RAKHASA
WARRIORS AT LAST, RAMANA'S SON,
THE MIGHTY INDRAJIT CAME
HIMSELF



BUT EVEN INDRAJIT'S ARROWS COULD NOT TOUCH HANUMAN,
FOR HE KEPT ON LEAPING HIGH IN THE AIR.

FINALLY INDRAJIT INVOKED THE POWERFUL ~~BRONZE~~ ^{ASURA} ~~ASTRA~~ WHICH ENABLED HIM TO BIND HANUMAN

TAKE HIM AWAY!

"A! RECEIVED A BOON FROM
BRAHMA HIMSELF BY WHICH
I CAN BE FREE
BUT I WILL NOT USE IT
I MUST MEET RAVANA"

HANUMAN WAS LED TO RAVANA'S COURT

O BRAHMA AN HANUMAN A
MESSENGER FROM KING SUGRIVA!
YOU HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE
FRUITS OF YOUR MARRIAGE
ACTS SO FAR BUT SOON YOU
WILL PAY FOR YOUR EVIL
DEEDS UNLESS YOU
RESTORE SITA TO RAMA

IMPUDENT
MONKEY! PUT
HIM TO DEATH!

THIS HUMAN

RAVANA'S VIRTUOUS BROTHER VISHVESHWARA INTERVENED

O KING AN ENVOY
CANNOT BE PUT TO DEATH
SHAVE HIS LIFE!

ALL RIGHT THE MONKEY SHALL
LIVE BUT HE SHALL BE MULTI-
PLICATED GET HIS TAIL ON FIRE
AND TARE HIM AROUND! LAHKA!

SO, ON SOAKED PIECES OF CLOTH WERE TIED AROUND
HANUMAN'S TAIL THEN IT WAS SET ON FIRE

HE WAS LED THROUGH THE STREETS
OF LANKA.



BUT WHEN THE
PROCESSION REACHED
THE CITY GATES, HE
LEAPT UP TO THE TOP



THERE, ASSUMING
A DIMINUTIVE
FORM HE CAST OFF
THE ROPES THAT
BOUND HIM AND
BECAME
FREE!



HE RESUMED HIS LARGE SIZE AND LEAPING FROM ROOF TO ROOF, HE
SET FIRE TO LANKA.



HANUMAN THEN FLEW BACK TO REJOIN
THE MONKEYS WAITING ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE OCEAN.

MEANWHILE AT KISHKINDHA HAMA WAS WORRIED.

THE MONKEYS
HAVE COMBED NORTH,
EAST AND WEST WILL
THOSE WHO WENT
SOUTH ALSO RETURN
WITHOUT ANY
NEWS?

LOOK! THERE'S A MONKEY
RUNNING TOWARDS US. IT
COULD BE THAT HE HAS
NEWS OF SITA!

IT WAS DADHAKRISHNA HE SALUTED SUGRIVA

MY LORD, MADHUVANA,
THE GARDEN OF WHICH
I AM PROTECTOR HAS BEEN
RUINED BY ANGADA AND
HANUMAN AND THEIR
FOLLOWERS.

EVERY TREE IN
THE GARDEN HAS BEEN
PLUNDERED OF ITS
FRUITS!

HANUMAN HAS FOUND
SITA! SO HE MUST HAVE
ALLOWED THE MONKEYS
TO CELEBRATE BY FEAST-
ING ON FRUITS AND HONEY!

LET MY VICTORIOUS MONKEYS
ENJOY THEMSELVES, OADHIANHMAN!
THEY HAVE EARNED THESE
SPOILS. BUT ASA HANUMAN
TO COME HERE

SOON —

AM! HERE HE
COMES!



HANUMAN SALUTED THEM AND THEN UTTERED THE WORDS
THAT FELL ON RAMA'S EARS LIKE IMMORTAL MUSIC

LORD, HAVE FOUND SITA SHE IS
A CAPTIVE IN LANKA, ACROSS
THE SOUTHERN OCEAN HERE
IS THE JEWEL SHE ASKED
ME TO GIVE YOU



RAMA GAZED AT THE JEWEL AS IF IN A
TRANCE THEN HE TURNED TO LAKSHMAN

WHAT COULD BE
MORE PAINFUL THAN
TO BEHOLD THIS
JEWEL WITHOUT SITA?

HANUMAN DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN WHICH
SITA WAS PLACED

SHE WOULD NOT
LET ME CARRY HER
AWAY FOR SHE
FEELS HER HONOR
WILL BE VINDICATED
ONLY IF YOU COME
AND VANQUISH
RAVANA.

I WILL GO
TO LANKA AT
ONCE



RAMA AND LAKSHMANA ACCOMPANIED BY SUGREEVA,
HANUMAN AND THE MONKEY ARMY STARTED OUT ON
THE LONG JOURNEY TO LANNA



AT LAST THEY REACHED THE SOUTHERN SHORE.

WE WILL CAMP HERE O VALIANT
MONKEYS, WE MUST NOW FIND
A WAY TO CROSS THIS GREAT
OCEAN!



A LITTLE LATER —

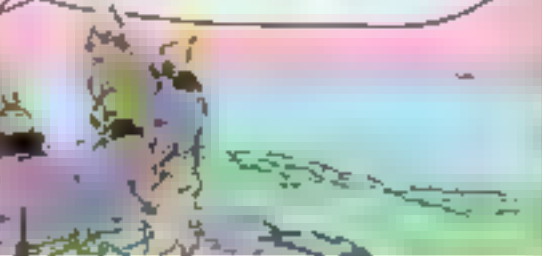
LOOK! RAKSHASAS!
BE PREPARED TO FACE
AN ATTACK!



BUT THE RAKSHASAS HAD NOT COME
TO ATTACK THEM



I AM HONEESHANA, RAMA'S YOUNGER
BROTHER I URGED MY BROTHER TO
RESTORE SITA TO RAMA HE REFUSED
THEREFORE, I'VE COME HERE TO
JOIN RAMA TAKE ME TO HIM



UGREEVA INFORMED RAMA OF VISHNESHANA'S ARRIVAL

RAMA, I SUSPECT A CONSPIRACY
DON'T TRUST RAVANA'S BROTHER
KILL HIM!

NO SUGREEVA
ANYONE WHO COMES
HERE SEEKING REFUGE,
SHALL RECEIVE IT —

RAMA WELCOMED RAVANA'S BROTHER AFTER
A LONG DISCUSSION WITH VISHNESHANA,
RAMA WAS ABLE TO ACQUAINT HIMSELF
WITH THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE
ENEMY

RAVANA SEEMS TO BE
WELL ARMED BUT VISHNE
SHANA I WILL SURELY
SLAY RAVANA!

THEN RAMA ON VISHNESHANA'S ADVICE,
POINDED TO SAGARA, LORD OF THE OCEAN

O SAGARA MAKE A PATH
FOR MY ARMY TO CROSS
OVER TO LAHKA!

RAMA PRAYED AND FASTED FOR THREE DAYS BUT
SAGARA DID NOT RESPOND ENRAGED, RAMA TOOK
HIM AT THE OCEAN

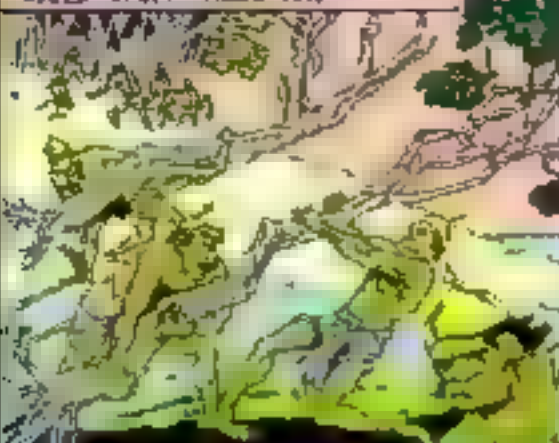
MY PATIENCE HAS BEEN
MISTAKEN FOR WEAKNESS!
I SHALL DRY UP YOUR
DOMAIN O SAGARA, AND
THE MONKEYS
SHALL CROSS
TO THE OTHER
SHORE ON FOOT!

IMMEDIATELY SAGARA ROSE FROM
THE OCEAN

O RAMA YOU HAVE WITH YOU
THE MONKEY NALA, WHO IS A
GREAT BUILDER LET HIM CON-
STRUCT A BRIDGE OVER
MY WATERS AND I WILL
HOLD IT UP.

AT RAMA'S COMMAND THE MONKEYS
FELLED MANY TREES AND

CARRIED THEM TO THE SHORE



UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF NALA, THEY BUILT A MIGHTY BRIDGE



RAMA AND HIS PARTY CROSSED THE OCEAN.

MEANWHILE, IN LANKA, RAVANA
WAS STILL TRYING TO PERSUADE
SITA TO MARRY HIM

SITA IN A SURPRISE ATTACK LAST
NIGHT MY ARMY DESTROYED THE
MONKEYS. MY COMMANDER BEVERED
THE HEADS OF THE BLESSED RAMA
AND LAKSHMANA
LOOK HERE IS
RAMA'S HEAD!



AFTER RAMANA LEFT A
RAKSHASI APPROACHED
SITA

DON'T BE DECEIVED BY
RAMANA HE HAS ONLY
CONJURED UP RAMA'S
HEAD RAMA IS ACTUALLY
CAMPING OUTSIDE LANKA

YOU ARE SO
VERY KIND,
SARANA

MEANWHILE, AT THE
MEETING OF RAMANA'S
COUNCIL —

A MONARCH SHOULD BE
ON FRIENDLY TERMS
WITH HIS EQUALS, OR
WITH THOSE WHO ARE
STRONGER THAN HIM-
SELF RETURN SITA TO
RAMA AND SEEK TO
MAKE HIM AN
ALLY

O RAMANA
KILL ME AS WELL
SO THAT I MAY
FOLLOW MY
HUSBAND!

WHAT? RAMA, MY
EQUAL? THAT PUNY MAN
WITH ONLY MONKEYS TO FIGHT
FOR HIM? RAMA MAY HAVE
MANAGED TO CROSS THE SEA
AND REACH LANKA BUT HE
WILL NOT RETURN ALIVE!

HAVING IMPROVED THE DEFENCES OF LANKA RAMANA
CLIMBED TO THE RAMPARTS TO SURVEY RAMA'S ARMY,
WHICH HAD ASSEMBLED ON MOUNT SIVELA

LOOK,
THERE'S
RAMANA!

IN A SUDDEN IMPULSE, SUGREEVA LEAPED FROM THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT SIVELA



HE DESCENDED



AND FLUNG AWAY HIS SHAKEN



AFTER A BRIEF COMBAT WITH RAVANA, SUGREEVA REJOINED RAMA.



LATER, RAMA SENT PRINCE ANANDA TO RAVANA'S COURT —

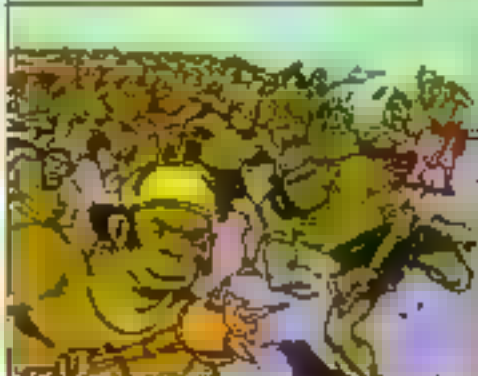
IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SAVE YOURSELF RETURN SITA TO RAMA AND APOLOGISE, OR RAMA WILL SURELY SLAY YOU.

IMPUDENT MONKEY! SEE HIM! KILL HIM!



BUT ANANDA ESCAPED EFFORTLESSLY

..AND THE BATTLE BEGAN.



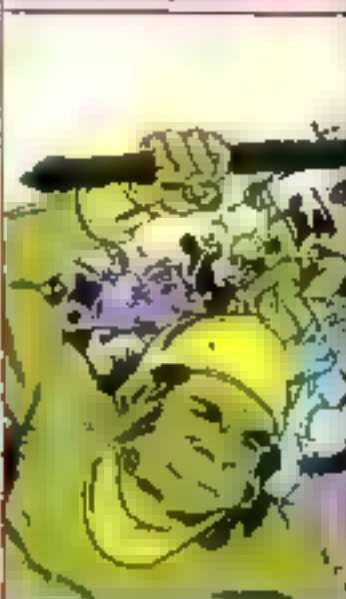
THE MONKEYS LEAPT UP TO THE
BATTLEMENTS



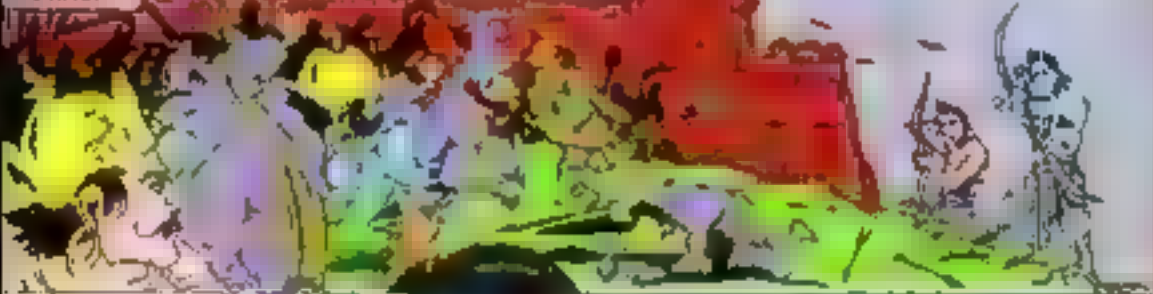
DROGGED THE DEFENDING
RAKSHASAS DOWN



AND ENGAGED THEM IN
A FIERCE BATTLE THE
WHOLE DAY LONG



AS THE SUN SET THE RAKSHASAS FOUGHT
WITH RENewed VIGOUR RAMA AND LAKSHMANA
STRIKE DOWN THE ADVANCING ARMY LED BY
INDRAJIT



INDRAJIT MADE HIMSELF INVISIBLE AND SHOWERED ARROWS ON RAMA
AND LAKSHMANA BOTH FELL DOWN, UNCONSCIOUS



RAMA IS DEAD!

BUT, IN A LITTLE WHILE, RAMA REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, SEEING HIS BROTHER WHO LAY BLEEDING AND STILL UNCONSCIOUS, HE PUT HIS HEAD LOVINGLY ON HIS LAP.



GARUDA, THE DIVINE EAGLE, VEHICLE OF VISHNU, CAME AND CROSSED LAKSHMANA WITH HIS WINGS.



AT GARUDA'S TOUCH THE WOUNDS HEALED AND LAKSHMANA REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS

INDRAJIT SHOT POISONOUS SHARLS IN THE GU DE OF ARROWS AT YOU AND LAKSHMANA BEWARE OF THE RAKSHASAS! THEY ADOPT TREACHEROUS MEANS!



GARUDA FLEW AWAY. RAMA, LAKSHMANA AND THE MONKEYS CONTINUED THEIR BATTLE AGAINST THE RAKSHASAS

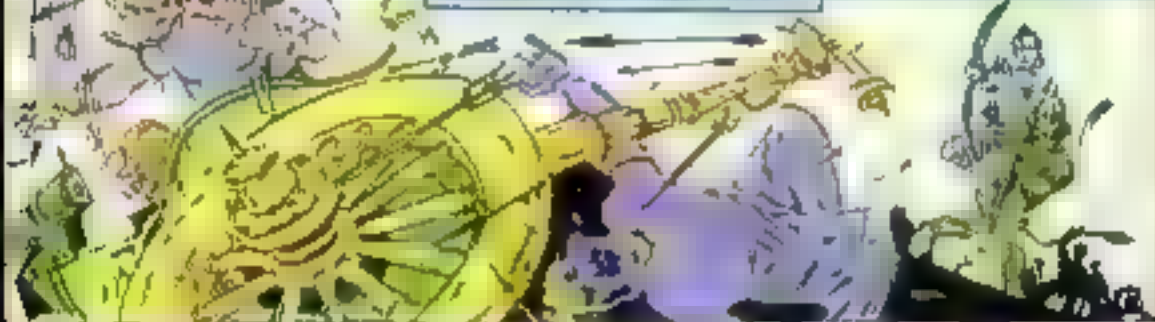


RAMA'S POWERFUL LIEUTENANTS, DHUMBAKSHA AND PRABHASTA, ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS, WERE SLAIN.

THEN RAVANA HIMSELF MADE HIS APPEARANCE
IN THE BATTLEFIELD



BUT RAMA, RIDING ON HANUMAN'S STRONG SHOULDERS,
SHATTERED RAVANA'S CHARIOT, KILLING HIS
CHARRIOTEER AND HORSES



UNDER RAMA'S RAIN OF ARROWS,
RAVANA LOST HIS BOW AND HIS
DIADEM WAS SHATTERED



WONT KILL YOU,
RAVANA, SINCE YOU
ARE TIED AND UN-
ARMED YOU MAY
GO BACK NOW

RAVANA SAID NOTHING
FULL OF SHAME HE
RETURNED TO HIS PALACE



HE SUMMONED HIS COUNCILLORS

KUMBHAKARNA IS OUR
LAST HOPE! WAKE HIM UP!

THE GIANT KUMBHAKARNA WAS IN THE HABIT
OF SLEEPING FOR SIX MONTHS AT A STRETCH.
TO WAKE HIM UP, A GREAT DIN WAS MADE BY
BEATING DRUMS, BLOWING CONCHES AND TRUMPETS.

THEY EVEN DROVE ELEPHANTS OVER HIM—



AT LAST, THE GIANT WOKE UP AND, AT THE COMMAND OF Ravana, WENT TO THE BATTLEFIELD. THERE THE TREES AND ROCKS AIMED AT HIM BY THE MONKEYS HAD NOT THE SLIGHTEST EFFECT.



BUT, IN THE END, HE FELL, STRUCK BY ONE OF RAMA'S ARROWS.




AT A SIGN FROM Sugriva, THE MONKEYS ENTERED LANKA AND SET FIRE TO THE CITY.



THE RAVANASABO CAME WAY UNDER THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE MONKEYS BUT AT THE DECISIVE MOMENT, INDRAJIT APPEARED -


OH, GOD! ISN'T THAT BHA?






ONE STEP FORWARD AND I WILL
KILL SITA RIGHT HERE - IN FRONT
OF YOUR EYES! SHE IS THE
CAUSE OF THIS WAR.

AS INDRAJIT STRUCK THE ILLUSORY SITA THE
STUNNED MONKEYS STEPPED BACK AND THEN
FLED




NOW WE WILL HAVE
SOME RESPIRE BEFORE
THE MONKEYS RETURN
TO ATTACK, I'LL PERFORM
A SACRIFICE AND BECOME
INVINCIBLE

THE MONKEYS BROUGHT RAMA THE
NEWS AND HE SHOOKED. WHEN HE
CAME TO VINEESHDHANA CONSOLED HIM.



RAMA PLEASE LISTEN
TO ME IT CAN'T HAVE
BEEN THE REAL SITA,
KNOW THE SIGNS FROM
THE DESCRIPTION, I AM
CERTAIN IT WAS ONLY
ONE OF INDRAJIT'S
MAGICAL CREATIONS!

THIS WILL CERTAINLY BE
FOLLOWED BY A SACRIFICE
WHICH WILL MAKE HIM
INVINCIBLE KILL HIM
BEFORE HE COMPLETES
IT)



LAKSHMANA
WILL DO IT

DISTURBED IN HIS RITES BY THE
ARRIVAL OF LAKSHMANA INDRAJIT
ROSE TO THE NEW CHALLENGE



BUT HE WAS QUICKLY FELLED BY
LAKSHMANA'S SWIFT ARROW

HIS AGONISED CRIES BROUGHT RAVANA TO THE
SPOT



TRAITOR! YOU
WILL DIE NOW,
VISHVESHWANA!

RAVANA TOOK DEADLY AIM AT
VISHVESHWANA



BUT, IN THE NICK OF TIME HIS ARROW WAS
BROKEN INTO TWO BY ONE OF LAKSHMANA'S
ARROWS.



ENRAGED, RAVANA AIMED AGAIN AND
HIS ARROW STRUCK LAKSHMANA IN THE
HEART



VALIANT MONKEYS TAKE CARE
OF MY BROTHER, LAKSHMANA,
WHILE I DEAL WITH THIS MONSTROUS
CREATURE ONE OF US MUST
NOW CEASE TO EXIST.

BUT AS RAMA'S ARROWS RAINED ON
HIM, RAVENA FLED



DURING THE LULL THAT FOLLOWED,
RAMA KNELT, GRIEF-STROKEN,
BY HIS BROTHER'S SIDE

LAKSHMANA WHY
DON'T YOU RISE &
OPEN YOUR EYES
MY BROTHER!



A VOICE BY HIS SIDE GAVE
HIM HOPE IT WAS SUBHENA'S
THE WISE MONKEY CONSOLED
RAMA

LAKSHMANA IS IN A
SWOON, THAT'S ALL
TO REVIVE HIM WE
NEED THE MEDICINAL
HERBS FROM DISTANT
MOUNT MAHODAYA.

MY DESPAIR HAS TURNED
TO JOY! GO, DEAR HANUMAN,
AND HURRY BACK WITH
THE LIFE-GIVING HERBS!



HANUMAN FLEW TO MANDARVA,
NEAR THE HIMALAYAS

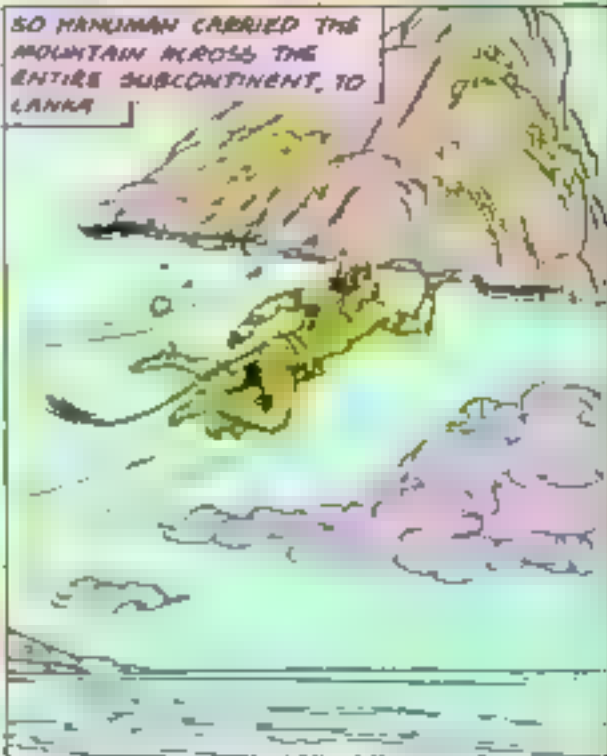


WHICH ARE THE
HERBS? THESE
OR THOSE?



OH, DEAR I CAN'T
DECIDE! I'LL CARRY THE
WHOLE MOUNTAIN TO
SUDHANA HE CAN
THEN SELECT THE
HERB HE WANTS!

SO HANUMAN CARRIED THE
MOUNTAIN ACROSS THE
ENTIRE SUBCONTINENT, TO
LANKA



AT LANKA —



OH LOOK! HANUMAN
HAS BROUGHT THE
WHOLE MOUNTAIN!

HANUMAN NEVER
FAILS US!



UNPERTURBED, SUSHENA FOUND THE RIGHT HERB AND, CRUSHING IT, HE HELD IT TO LAKSHMANA'S NOSE

IMMEDIATELY LAKSHMANA REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS

THANK GOD YOU ARE ALL RIGHT, LAKSHMANA!

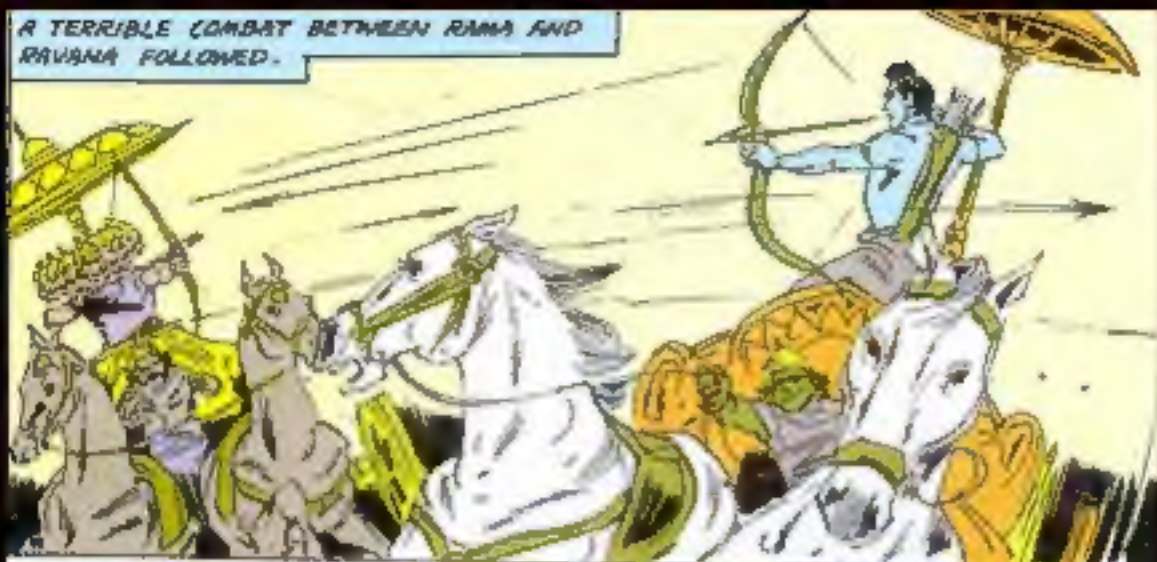
HANUMAN TOOK THE MOUNTAIN BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL PLACE AND RETURNED TO RAMA.

JUST THEN A WAR CRY RENT THE AIR, RAVANA HAD ARRIVED!

RAMA MOUNTED THE CHARIOT SENT TO HIM BY INDRA, LORD OF THE DEVS.

YOU CARRIED SITA AWAY LIKE A THIEF WHEN SHE WAS ALONE AND DEFENCELESS YOU KNEW, IF I HAD BEEN PRESENT, I WOULD HAVE DESPATCHED YOU STRAIGHT AWAY TO JOIN KURAI!

A TERRIBLE COMBAT BETWEEN RAMA AND RAVANA FOLLOWED.



FOR A WHILE, NOTHING WAS HEARD BUT THE MIGHTY CLASH OF STEEL AGAINST STEEL. DARKNESS SEEMED TO ENVELOPE THEM AND ONLY THE SPARKS OF CLASHING STEEL WERE VISIBLE.



FINALLY, RAMA UTTERED A PRAYER* TO SURYA AND, INVOKING THE BRAHMA ASTRA, AIMED STRAIGHT AT RAVANA...



...AND RAVANA FELL DEAD.



* TAUGHT BY SAGE AGASTYA ON THE BATTLEFIELD

LAKSHMANA CROWNED VIBHEESHANA THE NEW KING. PEACE AND RIGHTOUSNESS WAS RESTORED TO LANKA.



LATER, WHEN RAMA AND SITA MET EACH OTHER —



SITA, I'VE VINDICATED MY HONOUR. I'VE KILLED THE ABDUCTOR OF MY WIFE.

... BUT NO MAN OF HONOUR CAN TAKE BACK A WIFE WHO HAS LIVED IN THE HOUSE OF ANOTHER. WE MUST PART.



SITA WAS SHOCKED TO HEAR HIS WORDS.

IT IS A FACT THAT I WAS RAVANA'S CAPTIVE. BUT MY MIND WAS FILLED WITH ONE PERSON ALONE — RAMA! NOW THAT YOU THINK I AM IMPURE I'VE NOTHING TO LIVE FOR. LET LAKSHMANA PREPARE A PYRE. I WILL SEEK REFUGE IN AGNI!



O AGNI, IT IS NOT THAT I WANT TO PROCLAIM MY VIRTUE TO THE WORLD. BUT SINCE RAMA DEMANDS IT, SHOW THAT I AM INDEED BLAMELESS!

AGNI HEARD HER PRAYER. SHE PASSED THE TEST OF FIRE WITHOUT BURNING A SINGLE HAIR.

O RAMA, RECEIVE SITA! SHE IS PURE AND VIRTUOUS!

FORGIVE ME, SITA. I KNEW YOU WERE BLAMELESS, BUT A KING'S WIFE MUST BE ABOVE SUSPICION. THAT IS WHY THE TEST HAD TO BE UNDERGONE.

RAMA, SITA AND LAKSHMANA SET OUT FOR AYODHYA IN THE PUSHPAKA VIMANA, WHICH KING VISHVESHWANA PLACED AT THEIR DISPOSAL.



ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF AYODHYA, BHARATA WELCOMED THEM JOYFULLY.



RAMA WAS CROWNED KING OF AYODHYA.



RAMA RULED HIS KINGDOM WISELY AND STRICTLY FOLLOWED THE PATH OF DHARMA. PEOPLE FOLLOWED HIS EXAMPLE AND CARRIED OUT THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES. UNDER RAMA'S RULE, THERE WAS UNIVERSAL HAPPINESS.